

# The Nursing Process in Pharmacology Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. Which option correctly lists the five components of the nursing process?**
  - A. Assessment, planning, diagnosis, implementation, evaluation.**
  - B. Assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation.**
  - C. Assessment, diagnosis, planning, evaluation, and execution.**
  - D. Assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and discharge.**
  
- 2. Which provides the basis for planning patient care?**
  - A. Nursing diagnoses**
  - B. Outcomes**
  - C. Planning**
  - D. Evaluation**
  
- 3. A male patient has inquired about the physical therapy he will be receiving to regain his mobility after his knee replacement surgery. The nurse will interact with physical therapy to coordinate his plan of care. What step of the nursing process is the nurse using?**
  - A. Assessment**
  - B. Intervention**
  - C. Planning**
  - D. Evaluation**
  
- 4. Which nursing process step involves developing a care plan that outlines interventions to achieve outcomes?**
  - A. Assessment**
  - B. Evaluation**
  - C. Planning**
  - D. Diagnosis**

- 5. Which discharge goal is appropriate for a client with type 1 diabetes?**
- A. The client will demonstrate self-injection of insulin, using a preloaded syringe, into the subcutaneous tissue of the thigh prior to discharge**
  - B. The client will monitor blood glucose daily**
  - C. The client will maintain a specific weight**
  - D. The client will discontinue insulin therapy when feeling well**
- 6. An appropriate stated goal for a patient with type 1 diabetes mellitus is?**
- A. The patient will demonstrate self-injection of insulin, using a preloaded syringe, into the subcutaneous tissue of the thigh prior to discharge**
  - B. The patient will verbalize understanding of insulin storage guidelines**
  - C. The patient will demonstrate self-injection of insulin, using a preloaded syringe, into the subcutaneous tissue of the thigh prior to discharge**
  - D. The patient will monitor blood glucose levels daily and adjust diet accordingly**
- 7. In pharmacotherapy, what does evaluation determine?**
- A. whether the therapeutic effects of the drug were achieved, as well as whether adverse effects were prevented or kept to acceptable levels**
  - B. the exact dosage schedule**
  - C. the patient's satisfaction with care**
  - D. the need for updating medical history**
- 8. What do short and long term goals focus on?**
- A. What the patient will be able to do.**
  - B. What the nurse will do.**
  - C. The medication regimen.**
  - D. What the patient will be able to do or achieve.**

- 9. How do therapeutic drugs differ from foods, household products and cosmetics?**
- A. They are safer than drugs**
  - B. They enter the bloodstream more readily**
  - C. Food, household products and cosmetics are not designed for the treatment of disease and suffering**
  - D. They are less regulated**
- 10. What is the process of moving a drug from its site of administration across membranes to circulating fluid?**
- A. Absorption**
  - B. Distribution**
  - C. Metabolism**
  - D. Excretion**

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## **Answers**

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1. B
2. A
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. A
8. D
9. C
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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1. Which option correctly lists the five components of the nursing process?
- A. Assessment, planning, diagnosis, implementation, evaluation.
  - B. Assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation.**
  - C. Assessment, diagnosis, planning, evaluation, and execution.
  - D. Assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and discharge.

The five steps of the nursing process are assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. The term “nursing diagnosis” is used to distinguish the nursing assessment of patient needs from a medical diagnosis, which is why that step must include the word nursing. After identifying the patient’s needs, planning establishes goals and a plan of care, followed by implementation to carry out the plan, and finally evaluation to determine if goals were met and to guide any necessary changes. This sequence exactly matches the option that lists assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Other options use nonstandard terms such as execution or discharge, or omit the nursing qualifier for diagnosis, which shifts the emphasis away from the nursing process.

2. Which provides the basis for planning patient care?
- A. Nursing diagnoses**
  - B. Outcomes
  - C. Planning
  - D. Evaluation

Identifying the nursing diagnosis sets the stage for planning patient care because it frames the problems you will address and guides the selection of goals and interventions. The diagnosis translates assessment data into a defined patient problem—actual or potential responses to health conditions or treatments—so the plan can target those specific issues. In pharmacology, this means the plan centers on how medications will help the patient, what to monitor for (therapeutic effects and adverse effects), and what patient teaching or safety measures are needed to address the diagnosed problem. Outcomes describe the desired end state to achieve with the plan, so they come from the diagnosed problem. Planning is the process of forming the plan itself, using the diagnosis to set actionable goals and choose interventions. Evaluation assesses whether the outcomes were met and informs any needed revisions.

**3. A male patient has inquired about the physical therapy he will be receiving to regain his mobility after his knee replacement surgery. The nurse will interact with physical therapy to coordinate his plan of care. What step of the nursing process is the nurse using?**

- A. Assessment**
- B. Intervention**
- C. Planning**
- D. Evaluation**

Coordinating with physical therapy to map out and align the patient's care plan is planning. This step focuses on setting goals, organizing how care will be provided, and bringing together different team members to work toward mobility after knee surgery. It's not about gathering data (assessment), performing the actual therapy (intervention), or judging whether goals were met after the care is delivered (evaluation). Planning creates the roadmap that the rest of the nursing process uses to guide implementation and later review.

**4. Which nursing process step involves developing a care plan that outlines interventions to achieve outcomes?**

- A. Assessment**
- B. Evaluation**
- C. Planning**
- D. Diagnosis**

Planning is the nursing process step that develops a care plan outlining interventions to achieve outcomes. After data are gathered and problems identified, the planning phase sets specific, measurable goals and selects the actions—such as medication administration, monitoring for effects and adverse events, and patient education—that will move toward those goals. It provides the roadmap for what will be done, by whom, and when, guiding implementation and later evaluation. The other steps serve different roles: assessment collects data, diagnosis identifies health problems, and evaluation assesses whether outcomes were reached after care has been delivered.

**5. Which discharge goal is appropriate for a client with type 1 diabetes?**

- A. The client will demonstrate self-injection of insulin, using a preloaded syringe, into the subcutaneous tissue of the thigh prior to discharge**
- B. The client will monitor blood glucose daily**
- C. The client will maintain a specific weight**
- D. The client will discontinue insulin therapy when feeling well**

Managing type 1 diabetes hinges on lifelong insulin therapy, so preparing for discharge centers on the patient's ability to administer insulin safely and accurately. Demonstrating self-injection with a preloaded syringe into the subcutaneous tissue of the thigh shows the patient can prepare the dose, select an appropriate site, inject at the correct depth and angle, and deliver the prescribed amount. This hands-on skill is essential for maintaining glycemic control at home and for recognizing and responding to any issues like unexpected hypo- or hyperglycemia. While daily blood glucose monitoring is important, the act of correctly giving insulin is the concrete, actionable skill that enables independence after discharge. Maintaining a specific weight isn't a direct discharge skill, and discontinuing insulin when feeling well would be dangerous.

**6. An appropriate stated goal for a patient with type 1 diabetes mellitus is?**

- A. The patient will demonstrate self-injection of insulin, using a preloaded syringe, into the subcutaneous tissue of the thigh prior to discharge**
- B. The patient will verbalize understanding of insulin storage guidelines**
- C. The patient will demonstrate self-injection of insulin, using a preloaded syringe, into the subcutaneous tissue of the thigh prior to discharge**
- D. The patient will monitor blood glucose levels daily and adjust diet accordingly**

The main idea is that discharge goals should prove the patient can actually perform the essential self-care task. Demonstrating how to self-inject insulin with a preloaded syringe into subcutaneous tissue of the thigh shows the patient can carry out the critical treatment at home. This observable, hands-on skill confirms they can prepare the medication, use proper technique, select an appropriate injection site, and manage safety steps like dose accuracy and sharps disposal. Understanding insulin storage guidelines and daily glucose monitoring are important, but they are knowledge or ongoing management activities. They don't by themselves prove the patient can safely administer insulin, which is the key daily task for preventing dangerous glucose fluctuations.

**7. In pharmacotherapy, what does evaluation determine?**

- A. whether the therapeutic effects of the drug were achieved, as well as whether adverse effects were prevented or kept to acceptable levels**
- B. the exact dosage schedule**
- C. the patient's satisfaction with care**
- D. the need for updating medical history**

Evaluation in pharmacotherapy focuses on whether the drug therapy produced its intended effects and whether safety was maintained. After a medication is given, you assess if the expected therapeutic response occurred (symptom relief, objective improvements, lab targets) and look for adverse effects or toxicity, keeping them within acceptable limits. If the goals are met and safety is good, the regimen can continue; if not, you reassess and adjust the plan—alter dose, switch meds, or add interventions. This emphasis on outcomes and safety distinguishes evaluation from simply outlining a dosage schedule, collecting patient satisfaction, or updating the medical history, which are separate steps in the care process.

**8. What do short and long term goals focus on?**

- A. What the patient will be able to do.**
- B. What the nurse will do.**
- C. The medication regimen.**
- D. What the patient will be able to do or achieve.**

Short- and long-term goals in the nursing process describe what the patient will be able to do or achieve. These outcomes are patient-centered, observable, and measurable, guiding the planning, interventions, and evaluation of care. Short-term goals are reachable in the near term to show progress and adjust the plan as needed, while long-term goals reflect the ultimate health status or functional outcomes the care aims to accomplish. They should specify concrete abilities or milestones and be time-bound so progress can be assessed. This focus on the patient's capabilities distinguishes goals from what the nurse will do (the actions taken by caregivers) or from the medication regimen itself. By centering goals on what the patient will achieve, the care plan remains outcome-oriented rather than process-oriented.

**9. How do therapeutic drugs differ from foods, household products and cosmetics?**

**A. They are safer than drugs**

**B. They enter the bloodstream more readily**

**C. Food, household products and cosmetics are not designed for the treatment of disease and suffering**

**D. They are less regulated**

Therapeutic drugs are developed with the explicit purpose of diagnosing, treating, curing, or preventing disease and they undergo extensive testing and regulatory review to prove safety and efficacy. Foods, household products, and cosmetics are not designed to treat disease; they are chosen for nutrition, cleaning/appearance, or personal care, and their labeling and regulation focus on safe use rather than proof of disease treatment. This fundamental difference in intended use and regulatory emphasis is why the statement that best differentiates them is that foods, household products and cosmetics are not designed for the treatment of disease and suffering.

**10. What is the process of moving a drug from its site of administration across membranes to circulating fluid?**

**A. Absorption**

**B. Distribution**

**C. Metabolism**

**D. Excretion**

Absorption is the process by which a drug moves from its site of administration across membranes into the circulating fluid, allowing entry into the bloodstream. This step determines how much of the drug reaches systemic circulation and how quickly, and it varies with the route (oral, topical, inhaled, or parenteral) as well as the drug's properties (lipid solubility, molecular size, and ionization) and the absorption site conditions. After absorption, distribution describes movement from blood to tissues, metabolism is the chemical alteration usually in the liver, and excretion is the elimination from the body.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://nursingprocessinpharmacology.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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