

The Pitt Medical Terminology Practice Test (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. BAC stands for which term?**
 - A. Blood Alcohol Concentration**
 - B. Blood Alcohol Content**
 - C. Breath Alcohol Count**
 - D. Body Alcohol Content**

- 2. Which imaging is used after trauma to assess injuries throughout the body?**
 - A. Pan Scan**
 - B. EKG**
 - C. GCS**
 - D. Troponin**

- 3. Which scores are used by healthcare organizations to measure patient satisfaction?**
 - A. HCAHPS Surveys**
 - B. Satisfaction Index**
 - C. CAHPS Scores**
 - D. PG (Press Ganey) Scores**

- 4. Which of the following is the most common cause of small bowel obstruction?**
 - A. Hernias**
 - B. Tumors**
 - C. Adhesions**
 - D. Gallstones**

- 5. Which opioid is a potent analgesic commonly used in anesthesia and pain management?**
 - A. Fentanyl**
 - B. Morphine**
 - C. Hydromorphone**
 - D. Oxycodone**

- 6. Breath sounds bilaterally refer to assessing the sounds of air moving through the airways on which sides of the chest?**
- A. Breath sounds bilaterally**
 - B. Stridor**
 - C. Rales**
 - D. Wheezes**
- 7. Which statement best describes antipsychotics?**
- A. They treat psychosis and include agents that are typical or atypical.**
 - B. They treat anxiety disorders.**
 - C. They are primarily used to treat infections.**
 - D. They improve cardiovascular performance.**
- 8. What test records the electrical activity of the heart?**
- A. Troponin**
 - B. EKG (Electrocardiogram)**
 - C. Pan Scan**
 - D. GCS (Glasgow Coma Scale)**
- 9. Which statement best describes direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs)?**
- A. They require frequent INR monitoring.**
 - B. They are never reversible.**
 - C. They are blood thinners used to prevent and treat clots.**
 - D. They are only effective when given intravenously.**
- 10. How does blood flow through your blood vessels?**
- A. GCS (Glasgow Coma Scale)**
 - B. Hemodynamics**
 - C. EKG (Electrocardiogram)**
 - D. Pan Scan**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. BAC stands for which term?

- A. Blood Alcohol Concentration
- B. Blood Alcohol Content**
- C. Breath Alcohol Count
- D. Body Alcohol Content

Blood Alcohol Concentration is the standard term. It reflects the amount of alcohol in the blood relative to the blood's volume, so it's expressed as a percentage or as grams per deciliter. This precise, per-volume measure is why scientific and medical contexts use "concentration" rather than "content." While you might hear people use terms like "Blood Alcohol Content" in informal settings, the correct, widely accepted term is Blood Alcohol Concentration. The other options don't fit because they aren't the established medical terminology for this measurement.

2. Which imaging is used after trauma to assess injuries throughout the body?

- A. Pan Scan**
- B. EKG
- C. GCS
- D. Troponin

In trauma care, you need a rapid, comprehensive view of injuries throughout the body. A whole-body CT scan, often called a pan scan, does exactly that by imaging from the head down through the pelvis in one quick study. It provides detailed information about the brain, chest, abdomen, and pelvis, catching injuries that targeted tests might miss and helping clinicians decide immediate management. The other options aren't imaging that surveys the whole body. An EKG measures the heart's electrical activity; the Glasgow Coma Scale is a bedside neurologic assessment of consciousness; and troponin is a blood test indicating heart muscle injury. While each has its own important use, none provide the broad, rapid whole-body assessment that a pan scan offers in the trauma setting.

3. Which scores are used by healthcare organizations to measure patient satisfaction?

- A. HCAHPS Surveys
- B. Satisfaction Index
- C. CAHPS Scores
- D. PG (Press Ganey) Scores**

Measuring patient satisfaction relies on standardized experience scores that hospitals use to gauge how patients perceive their care and to drive improvements. Press Ganey scores are widely used because Press Ganey provides comprehensive post-discharge surveys, detailed analytics, and benchmarking across many healthcare facilities. This makes their scores a practical, widely adopted way for organizations to quantify patient experience, compare performance with peers, and identify specific areas to improve. While HCAHPS surveys are the CMS-standard instrument for hospital patient experience and CAHPS refers to the broader family of surveys, the frequent practical choice for hospitals to report and act on satisfaction data is through Press Ganey scores. Terms like "Satisfaction Index" aren't standard benchmarks in the same way, so Press Ganey scores align with how organizations routinely measure and improve patient experience.

4. Which of the following is the most common cause of small bowel obstruction?

- A. Hernias**
- B. Tumors**
- C. Adhesions**
- D. Gallstones**

Adhesions formed after abdominal surgery are the main cause of small bowel obstruction. When the peritoneum is irritated during surgery, scar tissue develops into fibrous bands that connect loops of bowel or attach bowel to the abdominal wall. These adhesions can tether or kink the intestines, or create closed loops, blocking the passage of contents. Because abdominal operations are common, adhesions occur frequently and are the leading reason SBOs occur. Other causes exist—hernias can trap bowel, tumors can obstruct, and gallstone ileus can block the intestine—but they're less common overall than adhesions.

5. Which opioid is a potent analgesic commonly used in anesthesia and pain management?

- A. Fentanyl**
- B. Morphine**
- C. Hydromorphone**
- D. Oxycodone**

Fentanyl stands out because it is an extremely potent opioid with rapid onset and a short duration, thanks to its high lipid solubility which lets it reach the brain quickly. In anesthesia, this combination lets clinicians provide strong analgesia right away and titrate it precisely during surgery, while not leaving the patient heavily sedated for a long time after the procedure. It's commonly given intravenously as part of anesthesia to blunt the body's stress responses to surgery and to maintain stable conditions without causing prolonged respiratory depression after the operation. Other opioids like morphine, hydromorphone, and oxycodone are effective but differ in potency, onset, and duration; they are either slower to act, longer-acting, or more suited to other types of pain management, making fentanyl the preferred choice for rapid, controllable intraoperative analgesia.

6. Breath sounds bilaterally refer to assessing the sounds of air moving through the airways on which sides of the chest?

- A. Breath sounds bilaterally**
- B. Stridor**
- C. Rales**
- D. Wheezes**

Auscultating breath sounds bilaterally means listening to both lungs on both sides of the chest to compare how air is moving in each hemithorax. This bilateral check lets you detect differences between the left and right lungs, which can signal localized problems that a single-sided check might miss. Stridor is an upper airway noise often heard without a stethoscope and relates to obstruction at the larynx or trachea. Rales (crackles) are fluid-related sounds in the smaller airways, typically heard during inspiration. Wheezes are musical, whistling sounds from narrowed airways. The term bilaterally specifically refers to having both sides of the chest included in the assessment.

7. Which statement best describes antipsychotics?

- A. They treat psychosis and include agents that are typical or atypical.**
- B. They treat anxiety disorders.**
- C. They are primarily used to treat infections.**
- D. They improve cardiovascular performance.**

Antipsychotics are medications used to treat psychosis, the set of symptoms such as delusions, hallucinations, and disorganized thinking. They come in two main groups: typical (first-generation) and atypical (second-generation) agents. Both types work mainly by blocking dopamine D2 receptors in brain pathways that drive psychotic symptoms, which helps reduce these experiences. The typical antipsychotics are older and tend to cause more movement-related side effects, while the atypical ones were developed to lessen those motor effects and often address a broader range of symptoms, though they can cause metabolic side effects. This combination—treatment of psychosis with agents categorized as typical or atypical—captures what antipsychotics are. They aren't primarily used for anxiety disorders, infections, or improving cardiovascular performance.

8. What test records the electrical activity of the heart?

- A. Troponin**
- B. EKG (Electrocardiogram)**
- C. Pan Scan**
- D. GCS (Glasgow Coma Scale)**

The test that records the heart's electrical activity is the electrocardiogram. It tracks the electrical impulses that coordinate each heartbeat, providing a graph of the heart's rhythm and rate. By looking at the waveform, you can see when the atria and ventricles depolarize and repolarize, which helps detect arrhythmias, conduction problems, and signs of ischemia or injury. Troponin measures a protein released when heart muscle is damaged, so it indicates injury rather than electrical activity. A Pan Scan is a body imaging CT scan used to visualize anatomy, not electrical signals. The Glasgow Coma Scale assesses consciousness level, not heart electrical activity.

9. Which statement best describes direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs)?

- A. They require frequent INR monitoring.**
- B. They are never reversible.**
- C. They are blood thinners used to prevent and treat clots.**
- D. They are only effective when given intravenously.**

Direct oral anticoagulants are blood thinners taken by mouth to prevent and treat clots. They work by directly inhibiting specific parts of the coagulation cascade—dabigatran blocks thrombin, while rivaroxaban, apixaban, and edoxaban block factor Xa. They're designed for oral use and typically don't require routine INR monitoring, unlike warfarin. Bleeding risk remains, but reversal options exist for many DOACs (such as idarucizumab for dabigatran and andexanet alfa for factor Xa inhibitors). This makes the description as blood thinners used to prevent and treat clots the best fit.

10. How does blood flow through your blood vessels?

A. GCS (Glasgow Coma Scale)

B. Hemodynamics

C. EKG (Electrocardiogram)

D. Pan Scan

Understanding how blood moves through the circulation is a study in hemodynamics. Hemodynamics describes the forces and motions of blood - how pressure differences drive flow, and how the vessels' resistance shapes that flow. The heart creates a pressure gradient: blood is pumped into the arteries at higher pressure and returns through veins where the pressure is lower. Blood will travel from high to low pressure, and how easily it flows depends on resistance inside the vessels. That resistance is largely determined by vessel radius: a small change in radius makes a big difference in flow because resistance changes with the fourth power of radius. Factors like blood viscosity and vessel length also play a role. The heart's output and the vessels' resistance work together to meet the body's needs, with local regulation adjusting flow to tissues as needed. The other terms don't describe this process. A Glasgow Coma Scale measures consciousness level, an EKG records the heart's electrical activity, and a Pan Scan is a comprehensive CT imaging study. Only hemodynamics directly explain how blood moves through blood vessels.

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.

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

<https://thepittmedicalterms.examzify.com>

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

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