

# Walgreens Pharmacy Technician PTCB Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

# 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

- 1. What is a legend drug?**
  - A. A controlled substance**
  - B. Rx Only drug**
  - C. Dietary Supplement**
  - D. OTC**
  
- 2. How long should the laminar flow hood be turned on before use to produce a particle-free environment?**
  - A. 5 minutes**
  - B. 15 minutes**
  - C. 30 minutes**
  - D. 60 minutes**
  
- 3. Who was the Egyptian god of medicinal herbs?**
  - A. Aesculapius**
  - B. Plato**
  - C. Pandora**
  - D. Imhotep**
  
- 4. Which term describes a drug's ability to reach its site of action?**
  - A. Bioavailability**
  - B. Pharmacodynamics**
  - C. Pharmacokinetics**
  - D. Therapeutic index**
  
- 5. What is the usual infusion rate of LVPs?**
  - A. Instantaneous**
  - B. Slow**
  - C. Rapid**
  - D. Lyophilized**

- 6. What characteristic does not typically help in pill identification?**
- A. Imprint code**
  - B. Color**
  - C. Odor**
  - D. Shape**
- 7. What are drugs that have a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when used in error called?**
- A. High alert drugs**
  - B. Schedule IV drugs**
  - C. Look-alike drugs**
  - D. Compounded drugs**
- 8. In a managed care setting, who primarily manages the care?**
- A. Insurer**
  - B. Pharmacist**
  - C. Physician**
  - D. Patient**
- 9. Children between which ages metabolize certain drugs more rapidly than adults?**
- A. 0 to 6 months**
  - B. 6 to 18 months**
  - C. 1 to 2 years**
  - D. 1 to 12 years**
- 10. What was the first effective local anesthetic?**
- A. Morphine**
  - B. Quinine**
  - C. Heroin**
  - D. Cocaine**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is a legend drug?

- A. A controlled substance
- B. Rx Only drug**
- C. Dietary Supplement
- D. OTC

The term "legend drug" refers specifically to medications that are designated as "Rx Only," meaning they require a prescription from a licensed healthcare provider for dispensing. This classification ensures that these drugs, which often have significant therapeutic effects or risk factors, are used safely under medical supervision. Legend drugs are distinguished from over-the-counter medications, which can be purchased without a prescription, and dietary supplements that do not require a prescription at all. Controlled substances fall under a different classification based on their potential for abuse and dependence. The legend designation is crucial because it helps manage the accessibility of medications that could have serious consequences if misused, ensuring that patients receive appropriate guidance and monitoring while using these drugs.

## 2. How long should the laminar flow hood be turned on before use to produce a particle-free environment?

- A. 5 minutes
- B. 15 minutes
- C. 30 minutes**
- D. 60 minutes

A laminar flow hood, commonly used in pharmacies for sterile compounding, requires sufficient time to ensure that the air circulating within the hood is free from particulates. The correct duration of 30 minutes allows the hood's filtration system to adequately filter and cleanse the air, creating a sterile environment suitable for preparing medications. The hood's design operates by maintaining a continuous flow of sterile air, which prevents contamination of the compounding area. While shorter times could seem sufficient, they do not provide adequate assurance that the airflow has fully cleared the area of any airborne contaminants. Additionally, the 30-minute period is a widely accepted best practice in the pharmacy setting to ensure that all surfaces within the hood are effectively treated with filtered air before any compounding begins.

### 3. Who was the Egyptian god of medicinal herbs?

- A. Aesculapius
- B. Plato
- C. Pandora
- D. Imhotep**

Imhotep is recognized as the Egyptian god of medicinal herbs and is often associated with medicine and healing. Historically, he was a great physician, architect, and advisor in ancient Egypt, revered for his contributions to healing practices and the development of early medicine. His legacy in the medical field is so immense that over time, he was deified, and his image became synonymous with healing and medicine in ancient Egyptian mythology. The other individuals listed do not connect to the domain of medicinal herbs in Egyptian mythology. Aesculapius, for instance, is a figure from Greco-Roman mythology associated with healing but is not Egyptian. Plato was a philosopher, and Pandora is a figure from Greek mythology known for her role in the myth of Pandora's box, neither of whom are related to the medicinal practices of ancient Egypt.

### 4. Which term describes a drug's ability to reach its site of action?

- A. Bioavailability**
- B. Pharmacodynamics
- C. Pharmacokinetics
- D. Therapeutic index

The term that best describes a drug's ability to reach its site of action is bioavailability. This concept refers to the proportion of a drug that enters the systemic circulation when introduced into the body and is made available at the target site. Bioavailability is crucial in determining the effectiveness of a drug, as it influences the concentration of the drug that can exert its therapeutic effects. Pharmacodynamics, on the other hand, deals with the biological and physiological effects of drugs on the body, including the mechanisms of action at the target site, rather than the drug's ability to reach that site. Pharmacokinetics involves the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of drugs and plays a role in understanding how the body affects a drug over time, but it does not solely focus on the ability to reach the target site like bioavailability does. The therapeutic index refers to the ratio between the toxic and therapeutic doses of a drug, providing insight into the safety margin of the drug, rather than its delivery effectiveness. Therefore, bioavailability is the most appropriate term to describe how effectively a drug can reach its site of action.

## 5. What is the usual infusion rate of LVPs?

- A. Instantaneous
- B. Slow**
- C. Rapid
- D. Lyophilized

The usual infusion rate of Large Volume Parenterals (LVPs) is typically slow. This is important because LVPs, which are used for hydration and administering medications, generally contain large volumes of fluid, often more than 100 mL. Administering these fluids too quickly can lead to complications such as fluid overload, electrolyte imbalances, or adverse reactions. A slow infusion rate allows the body to absorb the fluids gradually, reducing the risk of these complications. It also allows for better monitoring of the patient's response to the treatment and provides time to adjust the flow rate if necessary. This careful, controlled administration is crucial in a clinical setting to ensure patient safety and effective treatment. The other options describe infusion rates that would not typically be used for LVPs. An instantaneous infusion would be unfeasible and harmful, while a rapid infusion might lead to severe risks. Lyophilized refers to a form of a drug that has been freeze-dried and is not relevant in the context of infusion rates. Thus, a slow infusion rate is the most appropriate and safe method for administering LVPs.

## 6. What characteristic does not typically help in pill identification?

- A. Imprint code
- B. Color
- C. Odor**
- D. Shape

When identifying pills, the imprint code is a key feature because it is unique to each medication and often includes the medication's name, dosage, or identification number. The color of a pill can also aid in identification, as many medications come in specific colors that can be matched to a database or reference guide. The shape of a pill is another important characteristic, as different formulations may have distinct shapes that can help narrow down possibilities. In contrast, odor is not a reliable characteristic for pill identification. While some medications may have a distinctive scent, many do not, and the presence or absence of odor can vary depending on the pill's condition, storage, and how long it has been since it was manufactured. Therefore, relying on odor could lead to confusion and misidentification. This is why it is not considered a characteristic that typically aids in identifying pills.

**7. What are drugs that have a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when used in error called?**

- A. High alert drugs**
- B. Schedule IV drugs**
- C. Look-alike drugs**
- D. Compounded drugs**

Drugs that are considered to have a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when used in error are known as high alert drugs. These medications require extra safeguards to prevent errors because a mistake in their use can lead to serious adverse effects or complications for the patient. Examples of high alert drugs often include anticoagulants, opioids, and some forms of insulin, amongst others. Due to their high risk, healthcare providers implement stricter protocols for their prescribing, dispensing, and administration. This can include additional verification processes or specific labeling practices to minimize the chance of a medication error. Other categories such as schedule IV drugs pertain to regulations surrounding controlled substances, look-alike drugs involve the physical similarities that may confuse medications, and compounded drugs refer to those that are custom-made for patients based on specific needs. While all these categories are relevant in pharmacy practice, they do not specifically address the risk associated with medication errors in the same context as high alert drugs.

**8. In a managed care setting, who primarily manages the care?**

- A. Insurer**
- B. Pharmacist**
- C. Physician**
- D. Patient**

In a managed care setting, the insurer primarily manages the care by overseeing and coordinating healthcare services to control costs and improve quality. Managed care organizations (MCOs) operate under specific guidelines that focus on preventative care, cost-effective treatment options, and ensuring that patients receive necessary medical services while minimizing unnecessary procedures and visits. The role of the insurer typically involves creating and implementing health plans that dictate provider networks, utilization review processes, and patient eligibility, thus influencing how care is provided and accessed. This structured management ensures that healthcare resources are used efficiently while also aiming to maintain or improve health outcomes for members. While other entities like pharmacists, physicians, and patients play significant roles in the healthcare process, their influence is more focused on direct care, medication management, and patient engagement rather than the higher-level management of care itself.

**9. Children between which ages metabolize certain drugs more rapidly than adults?**

- A. 0 to 6 months**
- B. 6 to 18 months**
- C. 1 to 2 years**
- D. 1 to 12 years**

Children between the ages of 1 to 12 years metabolize certain drugs more rapidly than adults due to their unique physiological characteristics. During this developmental stage, children's liver enzymes responsible for drug metabolism are often more active than in adults, leading to enhanced drug clearance and a faster rate of metabolism. As children grow, their bodies undergo significant changes, leading to differing pharmacokinetics compared to adults. This rapid metabolism influences how medications are dosed, making it crucial for healthcare providers to adjust dosages appropriately for children in this age range to ensure efficacy and safety. Younger age groups, like infants or toddlers, may have different metabolic rates, but it is specifically during the ages of 1 to 12 years that you see a consistent trend of accelerated metabolism in comparison to adults. It is important for pharmacy technicians and healthcare professionals to recognize and apply this knowledge when dispensing medications to pediatric patients, ensuring proper therapeutic outcomes.

**10. What was the first effective local anesthetic?**

- A. Morphine**
- B. Quinine**
- C. Heroin**
- D. Cocaine**

Cocaine is recognized as the first effective local anesthetic due to its ability to block nerve conduction, providing localized pain relief when applied to mucous membranes and tissues. Its use in medicine became prominent in the late 19th century, particularly after Carl Koller, an ophthalmologist, demonstrated its effectiveness in eye surgery in 1884. This breakthrough ushered in a new era in medical procedures, allowing for surgeries to be performed with reduced pain for patients without affecting their overall consciousness. While morphine is a potent analgesic used for pain relief, it does not function as a local anesthetic, as it does not block nerve conduction in a localized manner. Quinine has historical significance as a treatment for malaria and does not provide local anesthesia. Heroin, although related to morphine and used for its euphoric effects, is not used as a local anesthetic and is primarily known for its addictive properties. Cocaine's unique properties established it as the first local anesthetic, paving the way for the development of other synthetic local anesthetics later on.



## 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://walgreenspharmacytech.examzify.com>**

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