

WISCONSIN CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. When providing care for a patient with AIDS, which symptom is the least likely to be experienced?**
 - A. Increased energy levels
 - B. Skin rash
 - C. Night sweats
 - D. Appetite loss

- 2. What type of exercises are categorized as Active Range of Motion (AROM)?**
 - A. Exercises assisted by a caregiver
 - B. Exercises performed by the resident alone
 - C. Exercises focused on passive movement
 - D. Exercises requiring equipment

- 3. What is a commonly delegated task that CNAs perform after peri care for an incontinent resident to prevent skin breakdown?**
 - A. Changing the resident's clothing
 - B. Application of barrier cream
 - C. Offering the resident a bath
 - D. Providing oral care

- 4. Which of the following can enhance a CNA's communication with residents?**
 - A. Using medical jargon when speaking
 - B. Speaking clearly and slowly
 - C. Avoiding eye contact
 - D. Limiting conversations to brief interactions

- 5. What is the primary goal of hospice or end-of-life care?**
 - A. To cure the illness
 - B. To provide for physical and emotional comfort
 - C. To prolong the patient's life
 - D. To conduct medical research

6. What are the five rights a CNA must follow when handling medications?

- A. Right patient, right medication, right allergy, right dose, and right route
- B. Right patient, right medication, right dose, right route, and right time
- C. Right patient, right medication, right dose, right route, and right order
- D. Right patient, right medication, right dose, right time, and right care

7. Where should a gait belt be positioned when used on a resident?

- A. Around the resident's torso under clothing
- B. Across the resident's arms
- C. Around the resident's waist outside of clothing
- D. On the resident's legs for support

8. Why is it important for a CNA to understand basic medical terminology?

- A. To impress patients with knowledge
- B. To communicate effectively with the healthcare team
- C. To avoid unnecessary paperwork
- D. To ensure compliance with regulations

9. Why is it important for CNAs to understand patient rights?

- A. To enforce hospital policies more effectively
- B. To ensure patient autonomy and quality of care
- C. To comply with safety protocols
- D. To manage staff relationships better

10. What should a CNA do to ensure the right dose of medication?

- A. Estimate the dose based on the patient's size
- B. Always check the medication label and follow prescribed amounts
- C. Make dose adjustments based on patient feedback
- D. Administer a standard dose used for all patients

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When providing care for a patient with AIDS, which symptom is the least likely to be experienced?

A. Increased energy levels

B. Skin rash

C. Night sweats

D. Appetite loss

In the context of caring for a patient with AIDS, it is important to understand the common symptoms associated with the disease and its progression. Patients with AIDS often experience a variety of symptoms due to their compromised immune system. Increased energy levels are not typically associated with AIDS. Instead, individuals living with the virus often experience fatigue and a decrease in overall energy as their body battles infections and deals with the effects of the illness. This symptom stands in contrast to conditions that might lead to heightened vitality, making it the least likely symptom for someone with AIDS to experience. On the other hand, skin rashes, night sweats, and appetite loss are symptoms frequently reported by patients with AIDS. Skin rashes can occur due to opportunistic infections or as side effects of medication. Night sweats are a common symptom and are often associated with fever or other infections. Appetite loss is also prevalent, reflecting both the physical and psychological effects of living with a chronic illness. Recognizing these common symptoms and their implications for patient care is essential for effective management and support.

2. What type of exercises are categorized as Active Range of Motion (AROM)?

A. Exercises assisted by a caregiver

B. Exercises performed by the resident alone

C. Exercises focused on passive movement

D. Exercises requiring equipment

Active Range of Motion (AROM) exercises are defined by the movement of a joint or body part using the individual's own muscular strength without any assistance. When a resident performs exercises independently, they engage their muscles actively, contributing to strength maintenance, flexibility, and overall mobility. This type of exercise encourages autonomy and is essential for rehabilitation and physical therapy, as it directly involves the patient in their care. In contrast, exercises that are assisted by a caregiver classify as Passive Range of Motion (PROM), as they do not require the individual to exert their own effort for movement. Similarly, exercises focused on passive movement also fall under PROM since they are performed entirely by another entity, not the resident. Exercises requiring equipment can encompass various types of exercises, but they do not specifically denote active participation by the resident, which is a key element of AROM. Therefore, the option that describes AROM correctly is when the resident performs exercises alone, utilizing their own muscle strength.

3. What is a commonly delegated task that CNAs perform after peri care for an incontinent resident to prevent skin breakdown?

- A. Changing the resident's clothing
- B. Application of barrier cream**
- C. Offering the resident a bath
- D. Providing oral care

The application of barrier cream is a commonly delegated task for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) after performing peri care for an incontinent resident. This practice is crucial in preventing skin breakdown and protecting the skin from moisture and irritants that could lead to conditions like dermatitis or pressure ulcers. Barrier creams form a protective layer between the skin and any potentially harmful substances, such as urine or feces, thereby minimizing irritation and safeguarding the integrity of the skin. Other tasks, like changing the resident's clothing, while important, do not specifically address the prevention of skin breakdown related to incontinence. Offering a bath or providing oral care, although part of overall hygiene, do not have a direct impact on protecting the skin in the context of incontinence care. Therefore, the application of barrier cream is specifically focused on mitigating skin risks associated with incontinence, making it the most appropriate choice in this scenario.

4. Which of the following can enhance a CNA's communication with residents?

- A. Using medical jargon when speaking
- B. Speaking clearly and slowly**
- C. Avoiding eye contact
- D. Limiting conversations to brief interactions

Speaking clearly and slowly is essential for effective communication with residents as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). This approach ensures that the residents understand what is being said, especially since many may have hearing impairments or cognitive challenges. By articulating words and pacing the conversation appropriately, a CNA can foster a more comfortable environment where residents feel more engaged and less anxious. Effective communication also builds trust and rapport, which are crucial in a healthcare setting. It allows for better understanding of the residents' needs and concerns, and ultimately contributes to higher quality care. This skilled approach contrasts with using medical jargon, which can confuse residents, or avoiding eye contact and limiting conversations, both of which can lead to feelings of neglect and hinder effective interaction.

5. What is the primary goal of hospice or end-of-life care?

- A. To cure the illness
- B. To provide for physical and emotional comfort**
- C. To prolong the patient's life
- D. To conduct medical research

The primary goal of hospice or end-of-life care is to provide for physical and emotional comfort. This type of care focuses on improving the quality of life for individuals who are facing terminal illnesses, rather than attempting to cure the underlying disease or prolong life at all costs. Hospice care emphasizes pain relief, symptom management, and emotional support for both the patient and their family, enabling them to navigate this challenging time with dignity and compassion. In hospice care, the holistic approach encompasses not only the physical aspects but also the emotional and spiritual needs of patients, ensuring they are comfortable and supported throughout their journey. Other options, such as curing the illness or prolonging life, are not aligned with the philosophy of hospice care, which prioritizes comfort and quality of life above aggressive medical interventions. Conducting medical research is also outside the scope of hospice care, as its focus remains on the individual patient rather than on scientific inquiry.

6. What are the five rights a CNA must follow when handling medications?

- A. Right patient, right medication, right allergy, right dose, and right route
- B. Right patient, right medication, right dose, right route, and right time**
- C. Right patient, right medication, right dose, right route, and right order
- D. Right patient, right medication, right dose, right time, and right care

*The five rights a CNA must follow when handling medications are essential for ensuring patient safety and effective treatment. The correct answer emphasizes the following critical components: 1. ****Right patient****: This ensures that the medication is administered to the correct individual, avoiding the serious risk of giving medication intended for someone else. 2. ****Right medication****: It is vital that the CNA verifies the medication being administered matches what is prescribed for the patient. This helps to prevent medication errors that could have harmful effects. 3. ****Right dose****: Administering the correct dosage is crucial, as both underdosing and overdosing can lead to ineffective treatment or adverse reactions. 4. ****Right route****: This refers to how the medication is administered, whether orally, intravenously, topically, or by another means. Each medication has a specific route that it must follow to be effective. 5. ****Right time****: Timing can greatly affect the medication's efficacy and the patient's health. Medications may need to be taken at specific intervals or with respect to meals. This combination of rights creates a comprehensive framework that helps prevent errors in medication administration, ensuring both safety and effectiveness in patient care. Other options, while closely related, do not capture the complete and correct*

7. Where should a gait belt be positioned when used on a resident?

- A. Around the resident's torso under clothing
- B. Across the resident's arms
- C. Around the resident's waist outside of clothing**
- D. On the resident's legs for support

The gait belt should be positioned around the resident's waist outside of their clothing for several important reasons. This placement provides a secure and stable support while assisting the resident with mobility or transfers. By positioning the belt around the waist, the caregiver can easily grasp the belt to help guide or lift the resident without the risk of slipping or causing discomfort. The belt should fit snugly but not tightly, allowing for a firm grip while ensuring the resident is comfortable and not at risk of injury. Additionally, having the gait belt outside of clothing prevents it from becoming tangled or causing any obstructions, which can be a safety issue during movement. This approach also allows caregivers to maintain a safe distance while providing assistance, reducing the risk of falls or accidents. In contrast, other placements, such as under the clothing, could make it difficult to access the belt quickly and could increase discomfort for the resident. Placing the belt across the arms does not provide any support for mobility and can lead to instability. Finally, positioning the belt on the legs would not be effective, as it would not provide the necessary support around the waist, which is key for safe mobility assistance.

8. Why is it important for a CNA to understand basic medical terminology?

- A. To impress patients with knowledge
- B. To communicate effectively with the healthcare team**
- C. To avoid unnecessary paperwork
- D. To ensure compliance with regulations

Understanding basic medical terminology is essential for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) as it directly impacts the ability to communicate effectively with the healthcare team. Clear communication is vital in healthcare settings to ensure that all team members are on the same page regarding patient care, treatment plans, and any updates related to a patient's condition. When a CNA understands medical terminology, they can accurately report changes in a patient's health, follow instructions given by nurses and physicians, and comprehend the documentation they encounter daily. This level of understanding helps in ensuring that patient care is delivered safely and efficiently, reducing the risk of misunderstandings that could lead to errors. Although impressing patients or ensuring compliance with regulations can have their own importance, the primary role of a CNA involves direct interaction with healthcare professionals and patients, making effective communication a central aspect of their responsibilities.

9. Why is it important for CNAs to understand patient rights?

- A. To enforce hospital policies more effectively
- B. To ensure patient autonomy and quality of care**
- C. To comply with safety protocols
- D. To manage staff relationships better

Understanding patient rights is crucial for CNAs because it directly impacts patient autonomy and the overall quality of care they receive. Patient rights are established to ensure that individuals receiving medical care are treated with dignity and respect, have a say in their treatment decisions, and are informed about their conditions and treatment options. When CNAs are aware of these rights, they are better equipped to advocate for their patients, encouraging personal choice and active participation in their own healthcare. This understanding also helps CNAs provide care that meets the ethical standards of the healthcare profession and promotes a supportive environment where patient preferences are prioritized. Ensuring that patients know their rights empowers them to voice concerns or preferences, which can lead to more tailored and effective care. In contrast, the other options do not focus as directly on the foundational aspect of care that patient rights represent, such as enforcing policies, adhering to safety protocols, or managing relationships among staff, which, while important, do not center on the individual's rights as a patient.

10. What should a CNA do to ensure the right dose of medication?

- A. Estimate the dose based on the patient's size
- B. Always check the medication label and follow prescribed amounts**
- C. Make dose adjustments based on patient feedback
- D. Administer a standard dose used for all patients

To ensure the right dose of medication, it is essential for a CNA to always check the medication label and follow the prescribed amounts. This practice is critical because medication labels provide specific information including the correct dosage, administration guidelines, and any special instructions related to the medication. Adhering to the prescribed amount ensures that the patient receives the appropriate therapeutic effects while minimizing the risk of side effects and potential drug interactions. This approach aligns with safe medication administration practices, emphasizing the importance of accuracy and attention to detail in patient care. By verifying the medication against the prescription, a CNA can help prevent medication errors, which could lead to serious health complications for the patient. Understanding that the prescribed amount is determined by healthcare professionals based on comprehensive evaluations of the patient's condition is crucial in maintaining safety and efficacy in medication management.

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://wisconsin-certifiednursingassistant.examzify.com>

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

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