CERTIFIED MEDICAL-SURGICAL REGISTERED NURSE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://certifiedmedical-surgicalregisterednurse.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 16

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. **Which comment by Mrs. Warren indicates a concern about her body image related to her surgery?**

   A. "I will have to stop my aerobics classes."

   B. "I'm so afraid I may not survive the surgery."

   C. "I need to go shopping for some loose, baggy clothes."

   D. "I'm concerned that this may be only the first of many surgeries."

2. **What is the primary purpose of administering an ACE inhibitor to a patient with an acute myocardial infarction?**

   A. To minimize platelet aggregation

   B. To reduce preload and afterload

   C. To reduce myocardial oxygen consumption

   D. To decrease myocardial oxygen demand

3. **What symptom of hypoglycemia could be masked by the administration of metoprolol tartrate (Lopressor)?**

   A. Diaphoresis.

   B. Tingling.

   C. Diplopia.

   D. Tachycardia.

4. **What stage of grief is a patient likely experiencing when they say, "This is all my fault"?**

   A. Denial.

   B. Anger.

   C. Depression.

   D. Acceptance.

5. **If a patient expresses anger about a treatment group, which response best demonstrates clarification?**

   A. "Can you tell me what about the treatment group made you angry?"

   B. "Why are you upset? Attending the treatment group will help you get well."

   C. "It sounds like group today was pretty upsetting."

   D. "Treatment groups have been carefully planned by the staff to help patients."

SAMPLE

6. What intervention may be used after recognizing a patient's hypokalemia?

A. Administer potassium supplements

B. Increase sodium intake

C. Prescribe a potassium-wasting diuretic

D. Restrict fluid intake

7. What characteristic is most likely found during an assessment of a patient with venous ulceration?

A. Gangrene

B. Heavy exudate

C. Deep wound bed

D. Pale wound bed

8. What are early signs and symptoms of dehydration?

A. Coma and seizures

B. Sunken eyeballs and poor skin turgor

C. Increased heart rate with hypotension

D. Thirst and confusion

9. What complication is most concerning during the first few days following an amputation procedure?

A. Infection.

B. Phantom limb pain.

C. Hemorrhage.

D. Delayed healing.

10. What is the expected response of a patient with heart failure receiving appropriate therapy?

A. Weight gain and increased fluid retention

B. Reduced shortness of breath and decreased fatigue

C. Worsening edema and hypertension

D. Increased activity tolerance and frequent palpitations

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which comment by Mrs. Warren indicates a concern about her body image related to her surgery?

A. "I will have to stop my aerobics classes."

B. "I'm so afraid I may not survive the surgery."

C. "I need to go shopping for some loose, baggy clothes."

D. "I'm concerned that this may be only the first of many surgeries."

The comment that indicates a concern about body image related to Mrs. Warren's surgery is the statement about needing to shop for loose, baggy clothes. This reflects her awareness of potential changes in her body due to the surgery. Concerns about body image often arise in the context of surgery, as patients may worry about how their physical appearance will change or how they will feel about their bodies following the procedure. The decision to seek out loose clothing suggests that she anticipates discomfort or alterations in her body shape, which directly connects to her self-image and how she perceives herself. Other comments, while expressing valid concerns, do not specifically address her body image. For instance, expressing fear about surviving the surgery highlights anxiety about the health outcome rather than about her physical appearance. Concerns about needing additional surgeries focus on the future treatment process and health, rather than immediate body image issues. Stopping aerobics classes points to a lifestyle change due to health recommendations rather than a direct reflection of how she views her body after surgery.

2. What is the primary purpose of administering an ACE inhibitor to a patient with an acute myocardial infarction?

A. To minimize platelet aggregation

B. To reduce preload and afterload

C. To reduce myocardial oxygen consumption

D. To decrease myocardial oxygen demand

The primary purpose of administering an ACE inhibitor to a patient with an acute myocardial infarction is to reduce preload and afterload. ACE inhibitors help to decrease the blood volume returning to the heart (reducing preload) and lower peripheral vascular resistance (reducing afterload). This overall reduction in workload on the heart can lead to improved hemodynamics, reducing the strain on a damaged cardiac muscle. In this context, lowering preload diminishes the fluid returning to the heart, which is particularly important after a myocardial infarction, as the heart may be compromised in its ability to handle increased volume. Additionally, by reducing the afterload, the heart can pump more efficiently, leading to better perfusion and potentially minimizing further ischemic damage. Other options, while they may seem relevant, do not play the primary role in the context of administering ACE inhibitors post-MI. For instance, minimizing platelet aggregation is typically managed through antiplatelet therapy rather than ACE inhibitors. Although myocardial oxygen consumption and demand are critical considerations in managing an infarction, the direct impacts of ACE inhibitors are most significantly attributed to their effects on preload and afterload, which facilitate enhanced cardiac performance during recovery.

SAMPLE

3. What symptom of hypoglycemia could be masked by the administration of metoprolol tartrate (Lopressor)?

A. Diaphoresis.

B. Tingling.

C. Diplopia.

D. Tachycardia.

The correct choice is tachycardia, which can be masked by the administration of metoprolol tartrate. Metoprolol is a beta-blocker that primarily affects the cardiovascular system, by reducing heart rate and contractility. In cases of hypoglycemia, one of the body's primary responses is to increase heart rate (tachycardia) as part of the fight-or-flight response. However, when a beta-blocker like metoprolol is given, this response is blunted, making it difficult to recognize tachycardia as a symptom of low blood sugar. When considering other symptoms of hypoglycemia, diaphoresis (excessive sweating) is usually not affected by beta-blockers. Tingling and diplopia (double vision) are also not primarily related to adrenergic responses and tend to remain apparent even when beta-blockers are administered. Therefore, the masking effect of metoprolol is specifically relevant to tachycardia in the context of hypoglycemia.

4. What stage of grief is a patient likely experiencing when they say, "This is all my fault"?

A. Denial.

B. Anger.

C. Depression.

D. Acceptance.

When a patient expresses sentiments like "This is all my fault," they are often grappling with feelings of guilt or blame, which aligns closely with the anger stage of grief. In this stage, individuals may direct their frustrations inward, feeling as if they are responsible for their circumstances. This is often a way of coping with the intense emotional pain of loss or impending change, as it can be easier for some to blame themselves than to confront the deeper emotions associated with their situation. While denial, depression, and acceptance represent different responses to grief, they do not capture the complexity of guilt and self-blame that can arise within the anger stage. Acceptance involves coming to terms with one's situation, depression is characterized by profound sadness and loss of interest, and denial is a refusal to accept the reality of the situation, none of which directly encapsulate the idea of self-accusation expressed in the statement. Thus, the emotion linked to saying "This is all my fault" indicates that the patient is likely navigating the anger stage of grief.

SAMPLE

5. If a patient expresses anger about a treatment group, which response best demonstrates clarification?

A. "Can you tell me what about the treatment group made you angry?"

B. "Why are you upset? Attending the treatment group will help you get well."

C. "It sounds like group today was pretty upsetting."

D. "Treatment groups have been carefully planned by the staff to help patients."

The response "Can you tell me what about the treatment group made you angry?" is the best demonstration of clarification because it invites the patient to express their feelings and specifically identify the source of their anger. This type of response shows that the nurse is actively listening and is interested in understanding the patient's perspective. By asking a clarifying question, the nurse encourages open communication, allowing the patient to explore their emotions further and clarifying any misconceptions or concerns regarding the treatment group. In contrast, the other responses do not effectively seek clarification. Asking "Why are you upset? Attending the treatment group will help you get well," could sound dismissive and fails to probe the specific reasons for the patient's anger. Saying "It sounds like group today was pretty upsetting," offers reflection but doesn't engage the patient to discuss their feelings further or seek deeper understanding. Finally, stating, "Treatment groups have been carefully planned by the staff to help patients," provides information but does not address the patient's emotions or seek clarification on their specific experience with the treatment group.

6. What intervention may be used after recognizing a patient's hypokalemia?

A. Administer potassium supplements

B. Increase sodium intake

C. Prescribe a potassium-wasting diuretic

D. Restrict fluid intake

Administering potassium supplements is a critical intervention after recognizing hypokalemia, which is characterized by lower than normal levels of potassium in the blood. Potassium plays a vital role in various physiological processes, including muscle contractions, nerve function, and maintaining proper heart rhythm. When levels fall, it can lead to serious complications such as muscle weakness, cardiac arrhythmias, and overall impaired physiological functions. In this context, potassium supplements can either be administered orally or intravenously, depending on the severity of the hypokalemia and the patient's clinical situation. This direct replacement of potassium helps to restore normal serum levels, alleviating associated symptoms and preventing complications. The other options provided do not effectively address the condition of hypokalemia. Increasing sodium intake does not aid in correcting potassium levels and may actually worsen the situation. Prescribing a potassium-wasting diuretic would further deplete potassium levels, exacerbating hypokalemia rather than treating it. Restricting fluid intake does not have a direct effect on potassium levels and is not a recommended intervention for hypokalemia. Thus, potassium supplementation is the most appropriate and direct intervention to correct hypokalemia.

SAMPLE

7. What characteristic is most likely found during an assessment of a patient with venous ulceration?

A. Gangrene

B. Heavy exudate

C. Deep wound bed

D. Pale wound bed

The characteristic most likely found during an assessment of a patient with venous ulceration is heavy exudate. Venous ulcers, which are often located on the lower legs, result from poor venous return and increased venous pressure. This condition leads to fluid accumulation and interstitial edema, ultimately causing the skin to break down and ulcerate. The heavy exudate is a direct result of the inflammatory process and the accumulation of excess fluid in the area. This fluid typically consists of a mix of serum, fibrin, and white blood cells, which appears as a serous or sometimes purulent discharge. The presence of heavy exudate can also be an indicator of the active inflammatory process associated with venous insufficiency. In contrast, gangrene is typically associated with arterial ulcers and would not be expected in venous ulceration, as it reflects tissue necrosis from a lack of blood supply. A deep wound bed is more characteristic of arterial ulcers, which tend to be deeper and have a more necrotic appearance. A pale wound bed is also not typical of venous ulcers, as these wounds generally present with a more reddish or dark pigmentation due to the surrounding fluid and inflammation.

8. What are early signs and symptoms of dehydration?

A. Coma and seizures

B. Sunken eyeballs and poor skin turgor

C. Increased heart rate with hypotension

D. Thirst and confusion

Thirst and confusion are indeed early signs and symptoms of dehydration. Thirst is the body's natural response to fluid loss, signaling that the individual needs to replenish fluids to maintain homeostasis. As dehydration progresses, cognitive changes can occur, leading to confusion or altered mental status. This happens because a decrease in body fluids can cause electrolyte imbalances and affect brain function, resulting in lethargy or confusion. While other options listed may represent more advanced stages or severe dehydration, thirst and confusion are among the first indicators that the body is in need of hydration. Recognizing these early signs allows for prompt intervention, which is crucial in preventing further complications associated with dehydration. It is important for healthcare providers to monitor these signs and respond swiftly to address fluid deficits in patients.

SAMPLE

9. What complication is most concerning during the first few days following an amputation procedure?

A. Infection.

B. Phantom limb pain.

C. Hemorrhage.

D. Delayed healing.

During the first few days following an amputation procedure, the most concerning complication is hemorrhage. This is a critical time for patients as they are at increased risk of bleeding due to surgical trauma, the disruption of blood vessels, and the body's response to the loss of a limb. Immediate post-operative care focuses on monitoring vital signs and the surgical site for any signs of excessive bleeding. Hemorrhage can lead to significant blood loss and subsequent shock, which can be life-threatening. Proper assessment and timely intervention are crucial in preventing complications associated with significant blood loss. Other complications, while important, tend to have different time frames or are not as acutely critical in the immediate post-operative period. Infection is a serious concern as well, but it typically manifests days to weeks after surgery. Phantom limb pain is a common phenomenon in amputees and usually occurs later as the patient begins to recover from the surgery. Delayed healing can certainly be a concern, especially in patients with poor circulation or underlying health issues, but it is more relevant in the long-term rather than the immediate post-operative phase.

10. What is the expected response of a patient with heart failure receiving appropriate therapy?

A. Weight gain and increased fluid retention

B. Reduced shortness of breath and decreased fatigue

C. Worsening edema and hypertension

D. Increased activity tolerance and frequent palpitations

The expected response of a patient with heart failure receiving appropriate therapy includes reduced shortness of breath and decreased fatigue. Effective heart failure management aims to improve the patient's quality of life by optimizing heart function, which typically results in these positive symptoms. As therapy takes effect, patients should experience less pulmonary congestion, leading to more comfortable breathing and enhanced capacity for physical activity, thus alleviating feelings of fatigue. Additionally, treatment often involves diuretics, ACE inhibitors, and other medications that help manage fluid levels and enhance cardiac output, contributing to better overall functional status and symptom relief. Considering other responses, weight gain and increased fluid retention indicate a worsening condition, while worsening edema and hypertension suggest inadequate management of heart failure. Increased activity tolerance and frequent palpitations are not typical expected responses; rather, improved tolerance without palpitations would be more aligned with successful treatment outcomes.

SAMPLE

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://certifiedmedical-surgicalregisterednurse.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE