CERTIFIED MEDICAL-SURGICAL REGISTERED NURSE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. **Which stat order for Mr. Palmer should the nurse question given his current heparin therapy?**

   A. Computed tomography (CT) angiogram.

   B. Enoxaparin (Lovenox) 40 mg subcutaneously.

   C. Oxygen per nasal cannula at 4 L per minute.

   D. Troponin level.

2. **Which patient teaching is essential for post-operative care at home?**

   A. Only rest and relaxation are needed

   B. Signs of infection and when to seek medical attention

   C. How to resume normal activities immediately

   D. Only dietary instructions are necessary

3. **What is the primary role of a Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (MSRN) in patient care?**

   A. To provide support to doctors in surgeries

   B. To educate patients about their medications

   C. To provide care for patients with a variety of medical conditions and surgical procedures

   D. To manage hospital administration tasks

4. **Which disorder results from a deficiency of circulating platelets?**

   A. Hemophilia

   B. Sickle cell anemia

   C. Von Willebrand's disease

   D. Thrombocytopenia

5. **During a fire in a hospital's dialysis unit, what should the nurse do first?**

   A. Extinguish the fire if possible.

   B. Activate the fire response system.

   C. Confine the fire by closing all fire doors.

   D. Remove patients or staff in danger.

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6. What classification of medications is often used to manage pain post-operatively?

A. Antibiotics and anticoagulants

B. Antihistamines and corticosteroids

C. Opioids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

D. Analgesics and barbiturates

7. When should a nurse notify a physician regarding a post-operative patient?

A. When the patient shows signs of improvement

B. When the patient exhibits abnormal vital signs

C. Only during routine check-ups

D. Every hour on the hour

8. Which of the following is considered identifiable health information?

A. A photograph of a patient's leg showing a unique tattoo

B. A patient's chart listing his history of a stroke last year

C. A blank menu for a regular diet on the patient's over-bed table

D. A laboratory report with the patient's name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, and room number deleted

9. What is the primary purpose of an IV therapy?

A. To administer medications and fluids directly into the bloodstream

B. To provide nutritional support in cases of malnutrition

C. To monitor vital signs continuously

D. To collect blood samples for testing

10. What does the RACE acronym stand for in fire safety?

A. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish

B. Rescue, Alert, Conform, Exit

C. Run, Alert, Contain, Evacuate

D. Respond, Alarm, Contain, Exit

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which stat order for Mr. Palmer should the nurse question given his current heparin therapy?

A. Computed tomography (CT) angiogram.

B. Enoxaparin (Lovenox) 40 mg subcutaneously.

C. Oxygen per nasal cannula at 4 L per minute.

D. Troponin level.

Given that Mr. Palmer is currently receiving heparin therapy, the nurse should question the order for Enoxaparin (Lovenox) 40 mg subcutaneously. Enoxaparin is also an anticoagulant, like heparin, and giving both medications together can increase the risk of bleeding. It is essential to avoid duplicate therapy with anticoagulants to prevent complications. The other options - CT angiogram, oxygen per nasal cannula at 4 L per minute, and troponin level - are appropriate in the context of Mr. Palmer's condition and do not pose a risk of duplicating anticoagulant therapy.

2. Which patient teaching is essential for post-operative care at home?

A. Only rest and relaxation are needed

B. Signs of infection and when to seek medical attention

C. How to resume normal activities immediately

D. Only dietary instructions are necessary

Patient teaching that emphasizes recognizing the signs of infection and understanding when to seek medical attention is crucial for post-operative care at home. After surgery, patients can be susceptible to infections, which may manifest as increased redness, swelling, warmth at the surgical site, fever, or unusual discharge. Educating patients on these signs empowers them to monitor their recovery effectively and act promptly if complications arise. Additionally, understanding when to contact healthcare providers fosters a proactive approach in managing their recovery and mitigates the risk of serious complications. Post-operative patients need to be aware not only of these potential issues but also who to contact, how to describe their symptoms, and the importance of follow-up care. Emphasizing rest and relaxation, resuming normal activities immediately, or solely focusing on dietary instructions does not adequately address the broader scope of post-operative care and potential complications. While relaxation, gradual activity resumption, and dietary guidelines are important components of recovery, they do not encompass the critical need to recognize complications like infections, which can significantly impact a patient's healing process.

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3. What is the primary role of a Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (MSRN) in patient care?

A. To provide support to doctors in surgeries

B. To educate patients about their medications

C. To provide care for patients with a variety of medical conditions and surgical procedures

D. To manage hospital administration tasks

The primary role of a Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (MSRN) revolves around providing comprehensive care for patients dealing with a wide range of medical conditions and those recovering from surgical procedures. This involves assessing patient needs, developing and implementing care plans, monitoring patients' health status, and collaborating with the healthcare team to ensure optimal recovery and well-being. MSRNs serve as the backbone of patient care in various settings, including post-operative recovery, chronic illness management, and general medical treatment. They are trained to recognize changes in health status and respond to complex needs, making them essential to the healing process across diverse patient populations. While educating patients about their medications is a critical component of nursing, it is just one aspect of the holistic care that MSRNs provide. Their primary focus is on direct patient care encompassing a broad scope that includes not only education but also assessment, intervention, and ongoing evaluation of diverse patient conditions. Support to doctors in surgeries is not a primary duty of MSRNs; their role is more aligned with post-operative and general patient management rather than the surgical procedure itself. Likewise, while there are administrative components to nursing, managing hospital tasks is not the focus of an MSRN, as their primary mandate centers around direct patient interaction and care.

4. Which disorder results from a deficiency of circulating platelets?

A. Hemophilia

B. Sickle cell anemia

C. Von Willebrand's disease

D. Thrombocytopenia

Thrombocytopenia is the correct answer because it is a disorder that results from a deficiency of circulating platelets. Platelets are important in the process of forming blood clots to help stop bleeding. In thrombocytopenia, there are not enough platelets in the blood, leading to an increased risk of bleeding and easy bruising. Hemophilia (Choice A) is a genetic disorder where the blood does not clot properly, usually due to a deficiency in specific clotting factors, not platelets. Sickle cell anemia (Choice B) is an inherited red blood cell disorder where the red blood cells become rigid and sticky, causing them to be sickle-shaped and leading to various complications, but it is not directly related to platelet deficiency. Von Willebrand's disease (Choice C) is a bleeding disorder caused by a deficiency or defect in von Willebrand factor, a protein that helps blood clot, but it is not specifically a disorder resulting from a deficiency of circulating platelets.

5. During a fire in a hospital's dialysis unit, what should the nurse do first?

A. Extinguish the fire if possible.

B. Activate the fire response system.

C. Confine the fire by closing all fire doors.

D. Remove patients or staff in danger.

During a fire in a hospital's dialysis unit, the nurse's first priority should be to ensure the safety of the patients and staff by removing them from danger. This is a crucial step to prevent injuries and save lives. Activating the fire response system and confining the fire are important actions to take but ensuring the safety of individuals at risk should be the immediate priority.

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6. What classification of medications is often used to manage pain post-operatively?

A. Antibiotics and anticoagulants

B. Antihistamines and corticosteroids

C. Opioids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

D. Analgesics and barbiturates

Opioids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are the primary classifications of medications used to manage pain post-operatively. Opioids, such as morphine and oxycodone, are effective for controlling moderate to severe pain due to their action on the central nervous system, providing significant relief after surgical procedures. They bind to opioid receptors in the brain and spinal cord, reducing the perception of pain. NSAIDs, like ibuprofen and naproxen, work by inhibiting the enzymes involved in the inflammatory process, thereby alleviating pain and reducing inflammation. They are especially useful for mild to moderate pain and are often used as part of a multimodal pain management strategy, allowing for comprehensive treatment that can enhance patient comfort and potentially reduce opioid use. The other classifications mentioned do not primarily serve the purpose of post-operative pain management. Antibiotics and anticoagulants are typically used to prevent infections and manage blood clotting, respectively, and are not effective for pain relief. Antihistamines and corticosteroids are geared more towards allergic reactions and inflammation control rather than direct pain management. While analgesics can be considered for pain relief, the inclusion of barbiturates—medications that are generally not used for managing post-operative pain

7. When should a nurse notify a physician regarding a post-operative patient?

A. When the patient shows signs of improvement

B. When the patient exhibits abnormal vital signs

C. Only during routine check-ups

D. Every hour on the hour

Notifying a physician is crucial for ensuring patient safety and timely intervention in post-operative care. Abnormal vital signs can indicate complications such as infection, hemorrhage, or respiratory distress, and recognizing these changes promptly is essential for patient outcomes. When vital signs are outside the expected range, it often necessitates further evaluation and intervention by the healthcare team. For instance, significantly elevated or decreased blood pressure, high heart rates, low oxygen saturation, or fevers can signal underlying issues requiring immediate medical attention. The nurse's responsibility includes vigilant monitoring, and any significant deviation from baseline values should trigger communication with the physician to prevent further complications. It is important to differentiate this from scenarios that do not require immediate notification, such as routine check-ups or regular improvement, as those do not pose an immediate risk to the patient. Regular intervals for checking on the patient, such as every hour, may be standard, but that does not imply contacting the physician unless a specific concern arises.

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8. Which of the following is considered identifiable health information?

A. A photograph of a patient's leg showing a unique tattoo

B. A patient's chart listing his history of a stroke last year

C. A blank menu for a regular diet on the patient's over-bed table

D. A laboratory report with the patient's name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, and room number deleted

Identifiable health information refers to patient data that can be used to identify the individual. In this case, a photograph showing a unique tattoo on a patient's leg would be considered identifiable health information because tattoos are unique to individuals and can help in their identification. The other options do not provide information that is directly identifiable to a specific person.

9. What is the primary purpose of an IV therapy?

A. To administer medications and fluids directly into the bloodstream

B. To provide nutritional support in cases of malnutrition

C. To monitor vital signs continuously

D. To collect blood samples for testing

The primary purpose of IV therapy is to administer medications and fluids directly into the bloodstream. This method allows for rapid delivery of treatments, which can be vital in emergency situations or when patients are unable to take medications orally. Intravenous access facilitates precise control over the dosage and can provide immediate effects, making it an essential procedure in medical care for hydration, medication administration, and fluid replacement. In contrast, providing nutritional support is a specialized function of certain types of IV therapy, such as total parenteral nutrition, but it is not the primary function of IV therapy as a whole. Monitoring vital signs continuously is typically performed through other means and not specifically associated with IV therapy. Lastly, while blood samples can be collected from IV access points, this is also not a primary purpose of IV therapy itself. Therefore, the direct administration of medications and fluids is the correct and primary purpose of this therapeutic approach.

10. What does the RACE acronym stand for in fire safety?

A. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish

B. Rescue, Alert, Conform, Exit

C. Run, Alert, Contain, Evacuate

D. Respond, Alarm, Contain, Exit

The RACE acronym is a well-established mnemonic used in fire safety protocols to ensure an effective response. The components of the acronym are specifically geared towards the actions that should be taken in the event of a fire emergency. - "Rescue" refers to the first priority, which is to help any individuals in immediate danger. This is essential to ensure that all persons, especially those who are unable to evacuate independently, are given aid first. - "Alarm" instructs individuals to activate the fire alarm system or alert others to the situation. Promptly notifying others about the fire is critical in enabling everyone to respond quickly and safely. - "Contain" emphasizes the importance of preventing the spread of the fire. This can include closing doors to confine the fire to a specific area, which helps limit damage and protect escape routes. - "Extinguish" is the final action of the acronym, which suggests attempting to put out the fire with an appropriate extinguisher if it is safe to do so and if the fire is manageable. If the fire is too large or spreading quickly, the priority should shift to evacuation. This systematic approach ensures a structured response to fire emergencies, enhancing safety for all involved. Knowing this sequence can help individuals act decis

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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:

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

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