CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (CPHT) PRACTICE EXAM (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. A refill request for omeprazole (Prilosec) is received, but the prescription has already had seven fills. What should the pharmacy technician do?

A. Refill the prescription because it is valid

B. Ask the pharmacist to authorize a 7-day emergency supply

C. Recommend an over-the-counter (OTC) medication instead

D. Contact the prescriber for a new prescription

2. Which minerals are typically reduced when taking diuretics?

A. Calcium, zinc, and iron

B. Sodium, potassium, and magnesium

C. Phosphorus, potassium, and copper

D. Magnesium, calcium, and manganese

3. Which statement is true about nitroglycerin?

A. It can be stored at any temperature

B. SL tablets must be replaced after 6 months of opening

C. It does not require protection from light

D. It can be dispensed in any container

4. What does the abbreviation "hs" indicate?

A. Every other day

B. At bedtime

C. After breakfast

D. Before sleep

5. How many days should a pharmacy technician assign as an expiration date for magic mouthwash containing water?

A. 21 days

B. 30 days

C. 60 days

D. 14 days

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6. What does the abbreviation "au" represent?

A. Right eye

B. Both ears

C. Intramuscular

D. Left ear

7. What information should be included on a medication label according to pharmacy regulations?

A. Patient's age

B. Medication's beyond use date

C. Pharmacy's opening hours

D. Prescriber's specialty

8. If a pharmacy technician dilutes a 1 g vial of cefazolin (Ancef) to a concentration of 100 mg/ml, what volume is needed to prepare a 500 mg dose?

A. 2 ml

B. 3 ml

C. 5 ml

D. 10 ml

9. A medication prescription calls for dextrose 5% in water (D5W) 1000 mL with 40 mEq of potassium chloride to be infused at 125 mL/hr. How many 1 L bags will be needed over a 24 hr period?

A. 2

B. 3

C. 4

D. 5

10. What happens to uric acid in the body that leads to gout?

A. It accumulates and forms crystals in joints

B. It is converted into glucose

C. It decreases fluid production

D. It increases heart rate

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A refill request for omeprazole (Prilosec) is received, but the prescription has already had seven fills. What should the pharmacy technician do?

A. Refill the prescription because it is valid

B. Ask the pharmacist to authorize a 7-day emergency supply

C. Recommend an over-the-counter (OTC) medication instead

D. Contact the prescriber for a new prescription

In this situation, contacting the prescriber for a new prescription is the appropriate course of action. Omeprazole, like many other medications, is subject to specific regulations regarding refills. Once a prescription has reached its maximum number of refills legally permitted, a pharmacy technician cannot refill it without authorization from the prescriber. Each state has its own laws regarding the maximum number of refills for prescriptions, and for some medications, refills may be limited to six months or less, requiring a new prescription once that limit is reached. Therefore, reaching out to the prescriber ensures that the patient continues to receive their medication in accordance with regulatory guidelines and assesses whether any changes to the patient's treatment plan are needed. The other options would not be appropriate. While an emergency supply or recommending an OTC option might seem helpful, they do not address the legality and proper protocol of dispensing a prescription medication that has reached its refill limit. Only a new prescription from the prescriber would ensure compliance with the necessary regulations.

2. Which minerals are typically reduced when taking diuretics?

A. Calcium, zinc, and iron

B. Sodium, potassium, and magnesium

C. Phosphorus, potassium, and copper

D. Magnesium, calcium, and manganese

Diuretics are medications commonly used to promote the excretion of water and electrolytes through urine. One of the primary effects of diuretics is the loss of specific minerals, especially electrolytes that are critical for various bodily functions. When taking diuretics, it is typical for sodium, potassium, and magnesium levels to be reduced. Sodium is actively involved in fluid balance and nerve transmission. Potassium is crucial for maintaining proper muscle and nerve function, particularly in the heart. Magnesium plays a vital role in over 300 biochemical reactions in the body, including the regulation of muscle and nerve function, blood sugar levels, and blood pressure. Other options include minerals that are generally not directly affected by diuretic use. Calcium, zinc, and iron, for example, are not typically lost in significant amounts due to the action of diuretics. Similarly, phosphorus and copper are not the key electrolytes that are influenced by diuretic therapy. Thus, the correct identification of sodium, potassium, and magnesium as minerals that are typically reduced when taking diuretics underlines the importance of monitoring these levels in patients being treated with these medications to prevent complications like electrolyte imbalances.

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3. Which statement is true about nitroglycerin?

A. It can be stored at any temperature

B. SL tablets must be replaced after 6 months of opening

C. It does not require protection from light

D. It can be dispensed in any container

The statement that nitroglycerin sublingual (SL) tablets must be replaced after 6 months of opening is true because nitroglycerin is sensitive to moisture and light, which can degrade its efficacy over time. Once a bottle is opened, the tablets are exposed to air and humidity, which can lead to decreased potency. Pharmacists recommend that patients ensure their nitroglycerin is fresh and effective by replacing it periodically, specifically after about 6 months of opening. This rule helps ensure that patients using nitroglycerin for chest pain or angina receive medication that works properly. The other options are incorrect due to the specific storage and handling requirements of nitroglycerin. It should be stored under controlled temperatures to maintain its efficacy, requires protection from light, and should be dispensed in light-resistant containers to prevent degradation.

4. What does the abbreviation "hs" indicate?

A. Every other day

B. At bedtime

C. After breakfast

D. Before sleep

The abbreviation "hs" comes from the Latin term "hora somni," which translates to "at the hour of sleep." This designation is commonly used in medication prescriptions to indicate that a medication should be taken at bedtime. This timing is significant because it aligns the administration of certain drugs with the patient's sleep cycle, potentially enhancing effectiveness and minimizing side effects that could interfere with daily activities. In contrast, the other options describe different timing for medication administration but do not accurately convey the specific instruction that "hs" provides. For example, "every other day" refers to a dosing schedule inconsistent with the specific timing of "hs," while "after breakfast" and "before sleep" suggest different times that do not accurately represent the intended meaning of "hs." Therefore, understanding the abbreviation's context is essential for proper medication management and patient adherence to prescribed therapies.

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5. How many days should a pharmacy technician assign as an expiration date for magic mouthwash containing water?

A. 21 days

B. 30 days

C. 60 days

D. 14 days

The correct choice indicates that magic mouthwash, which typically contains water as one of its components, should be assigned an expiration date of 14 days. This is based on the understanding that compounded medications, especially those containing water, can harbor microbial growth, which can lead to potential contamination. Magic mouthwash recipes often consist of various ingredients like an antihistamine, an antacid, and sometimes corticosteroids, all mixed in a liquid base that contains water. When water is involved, the stability and integrity of the mixture can diminish over time due to the risk of microbial growth and degradation of the active ingredients. As a best practice, the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) guidelines recommend a short shelf life for compounded oral solutions that have water to minimize any risk of microbial infection. Thus, a 14-day expiration date is generally adopted as it ensures that the medication remains safe and effective for the patient's use within that timeframe. In contrast, options suggesting longer expiration dates, such as 21, 30, or 60 days, do not consider the inherent risks associated with water-containing formulations in compounded medications where microbial contamination could compromise patient safety. Therefore, the selection of 14 days aligns best with established compounding guidelines to

6. What does the abbreviation "au" represent?

A. Right eye

B. Both ears

C. Intramuscular

D. Left ear

The abbreviation "au" stands for "both ears." In medical terminology, "au" is derived from the Latin term "auris utraque," which translates to "each ear." This abbreviation is commonly used in prescriptions and medical documentation to indicate that a treatment or medication should be applied or administered to both ears simultaneously. Understanding the use of "au" can help pharmacy technicians accurately interpret and fill prescriptions that involve ear treatments, ensuring that patients receive the appropriate care for conditions affecting their hearing or ear health. This clarity is crucial for patient safety and effective treatment outcomes.

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7. What information should be included on a medication label according to pharmacy regulations?

A. Patient's age

B. Medication's beyond use date

C. Pharmacy's opening hours

D. Prescriber's specialty

The inclusion of the medication's beyond use date on a medication label is essential according to pharmacy regulations, as it provides critical information about the safe and effective use of the medication. This date indicates the period during which the medication is guaranteed to maintain its potency and safety when stored according to the recommended conditions. After this date, the effectiveness and safety of the medication can no longer be assured, which is crucial for preventing potential harm to the patient. Other information, while potentially useful in an overall healthcare context, is not typically mandated on medication labels. For example, the patient's age, pharmacy's opening hours, and prescriber's specialty may not be relevant for the labeling of the medication itself. Instead, the focus is on ensuring that patients and healthcare providers have the necessary information about the medication's use, administration, and stability, which culminates in the critical aspect of the beyond use date being featured prominently on the label. This supports proper medication management and patient safety.

8. If a pharmacy technician dilutes a 1 g vial of cefazolin (Ancef) to a concentration of 100 mg/ml, what volume is needed to prepare a 500 mg dose?

A. 2 ml

B. 3 ml

C. 5 ml

D. 10 ml

To determine the volume required to prepare a 500 mg dose of cefazolin when it has been diluted to a concentration of 100 mg/ml, it is important to use the formula that relates dose, concentration, and volume. The formula is: $$\text{Volume} = \frac{\text{Dose}}{\text{Concentration}}$$ In this case, we have a dose of 500 mg and a concentration of 100 mg/ml. By substituting these values into the formula, we can find the required volume: $$\text{Volume} = \frac{500 \, \text{mg}}{100 \, \text{mg/ml}}$$ Calculating this gives: $$\text{Volume} = 5 \, \text{ml}$$ This indicates that to obtain a dose of 500 mg of cefazolin from a solution that has a concentration of 100 mg/ml, you would need to measure out 5 ml of the diluted solution. Understanding the relationship between dose and concentration is crucial in pharmacy practice, as it ensures that the correct amount of medication is administered to patients. This calculation reinforces the importance of dosage forms and concentrations when preparing medications in various clinical settings.

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9. A medication prescription calls for dextrose 5% in water (D5W) 1000 mL with 40 mEq of potassium chloride to be infused at 125 mL/hr. How many 1 L bags will be needed over a 24 hr period?

A. 2

B. 3

C. 4

D. 5

To determine the number of 1 L bags of dextrose 5% in water (D5W) required for a 24-hour period at an infusion rate of 125 mL/hr, it's essential to first calculate the total volume needed for one day. The calculation for total volume over 24 hours is straightforward: 125 mL/hr multiplied by 24 hours equals 3000 mL of solution needed. Since 1 L is equivalent to 1000 mL, this means that 3000 mL translates to 3 L. Considering the prescribed volume of dextrose being infused, we find that 3 L corresponds to three 1 L bags. Thus, it is necessary to have three separate 1 L bags to meet the daily fluid and potassium chloride requirements as per the prescription.

10. What happens to uric acid in the body that leads to gout?

A. It accumulates and forms crystals in joints

B. It is converted into glucose

C. It decreases fluid production

D. It increases heart rate

The key to understanding why the accumulation of uric acid leads to gout lies in the metabolism and excretion processes of this substance. Uric acid is a byproduct of purine metabolism, which occurs during the breakdown of certain foods and the body's own cells. When the body produces too much uric acid or fails to eliminate it effectively through the kidneys, the levels in the bloodstream can rise excessively. This excess uric acid can then crystallize in the joints, particularly in areas such as the big toe, leading to inflammation, pain, and swelling characteristic of a gout attack. The formation of these sharp, needle-like crystals triggers an intense inflammatory response from the immune system, often causing severe discomfort. In contrast to the other options, neither the conversion of uric acid into glucose nor its effects on fluid production or heart rate are mechanisms directly involved in the pathophysiology of gout. Gout specifically results from the crystallization of uric acid in the joints and the resulting inflammatory reaction. Understanding this process is essential for recognizing the underlying causes and treatment options for gout.

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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:

https://pharmacytech.examzify.com

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

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