FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING ETHICS AND VALUES 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. **What is a recommended approach when there is conflict between patient autonomy and family wishes?**

   A. Prioritize family wishes.

   B. Ignore patient wishes if family disagrees.

   C. Make unilateral decisions without documentation.

   D. Prioritize patient expressed wishes when capacity is intact, facilitate communication, document decisions, and involve ethics as needed.

2. **Which element is NOT listed as part of the process for resolving conflicting opinions?**

   A. Presumption of goodwill on the part of all participants

   B. Strict adherence to confidentiality

   C. Patient-centered decision making

   D. Mandatory anonymity of all participants

3. **The concept that a nurse is accountable for their own actions and for the actions of those they delegate is called what?**

   A. Responsibility

   B. Accountability

   C. Ethics

   D. Professionalism

4. **When a nurse assesses a patient for pain and offers a plan to manage the pain, which principle is used to encourage the nurse to monitor the patient's response to the pain?**

   A. Fidelity

   B. Autonomy

   C. Veracity

   D. Beneficence

5. **Describe the role of cultural and linguistic access services in ethical nursing practice.**

   A. Use interpreters and culturally appropriate materials to ensure informed decisions.

   B. Rely exclusively on family members for translation.

   C. Avoid using interpreters to preserve privacy.

   D. Limit information to written form in native language of staff.

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6. Which principle remains constant in professional nursing alongside responsibility, accountability, and advocacy?

A. Confidentiality

B. Autonomy

C. Justice

D. Beneficence

7. Who can give informed consent in cases where a patient lacks capacity, and what standards guide surrogate decisions?

A. A legally authorized representative or surrogate makes decisions; standards include best interest, substituted judgment, and known patient preferences or advance directives.

B. The nurse decides best interest when capacity is lacking.

C. The family can decide with no formal standards.

D. Informed consent is waived when patient lacks capacity.

8. Who plays a role in the formation of values, reinforcing or challenging family values?

A. Schools, governments, religious traditions, and other social institutions

B. Only immediate family members

C. Patients and doctors alone

D. Legal statutes exclusively

9. The principle that supports acting in the patient's best interest and promoting good is called?

A. Autonomy

B. Beneficence

C. Nonmaleficence

D. Veracity

10. When ethical decisions are complex and goals are at stake, what is the role of ethics consultation?

A. Seek ethics consultation when decisions are ethically unclear and patient goals are at stake.

B. Avoid ethics consultations to save time.

C. Only involve ethics when patient demands it.

D. Ethics consultation is unnecessary if the family agrees.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a recommended approach when there is conflict between patient autonomy and family wishes?

A. Prioritize family wishes.

B. Ignore patient wishes if family disagrees.

C. Make unilateral decisions without documentation.

D. Prioritize patient expressed wishes when capacity is intact, facilitate communication, document decisions, and involve ethics as needed.

When a patient's wishes conflict with what family wants, the key is to uphold the patient's autonomy if the patient has decision-making capacity, while actively facilitating conversation and clarity among all parties and documenting the outcome, with ethics consultation available as needed. If capacity is intact, the patient's expressed choices guide care because they have the right to decide about their own treatment. This involves providing clear information, exploring the patient's goals and values, and ensuring they understand the consequences of options. Involving the family is still important to support understanding and to align on goals, but they do not override the patient's decisions. Clear documentation of the patient's decisions, the information provided, and the rationale helps protect everyone and guides future care. When uncertainties or disagreements persist, consulting an ethics committee or ethics liaison can help mediate and reach a plan that respects the patient's wishes while considering family concerns.

2. Which element is NOT listed as part of the process for resolving conflicting opinions?

A. Presumption of goodwill on the part of all participants

B. Strict adherence to confidentiality

C. Patient-centered decision making

D. Mandatory anonymity of all participants

When resolving conflicting opinions among healthcare team members, the emphasis is on respectful dialogue, protection of patient privacy, and guiding decisions by the patient's values. A presumption of goodwill helps keep discussions constructive rather than adversarial, so differences are explored openly without accusations. Strict adherence to confidentiality protects patient information and professional boundaries, ensuring that sensitive data stays within appropriate channels. Centering decisions on the patient ensures that care aligns with the patient's preferences, needs, and rights. The element that does not belong is mandatory anonymity of all participants. Requiring everyone to remain anonymous would make it hard to identify who voiced concerns, ask for clarification, and hold people accountable for decisions, which undermines effective collaboration and the ability to resolve conflicts constructively.

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3. The concept that a nurse is accountable for their own actions and for the actions of those they delegate is called what?

A. Responsibility

B. Accountability

C. Ethics

D. Professionalism

Accountability means being answerable for your own actions and for the actions of those you delegate. In nursing, you often assign tasks to other team members, but you still hold ultimate responsibility for the care provided. This includes ensuring the person you delegate to is competent, giving clear instructions, and supervising and evaluating outcomes to safeguard patient safety. Responsibility is related but narrower, focusing on the duties you personally perform. Ethics deals with moral principles that guide what is right or wrong, and professionalism refers to the overall conduct and standards of practice. Therefore, accountability best captures the idea that you are answerable for both your own actions and the actions of those you delegate.

4. When a nurse assesses a patient for pain and offers a plan to manage the pain, which principle is used to encourage the nurse to monitor the patient's response to the pain?

A. Fidelity

B. Autonomy

C. Veracity

D. Beneficence

Fidelity—the nurse's obligation to be loyal, trustworthy, and to honor commitments to patients. When pain is assessed and a plan to manage it is offered, monitoring the patient's response is how the nurse stays true to that commitment: following through on the plan, checking effectiveness, and adjusting care as needed to relieve suffering. This ongoing evaluation reinforces trust and accountability in the nurse–patient relationship. Autonomy focuses on respecting the patient's right to make decisions about their own care, including consent to a plan. Veracity is about truth-telling. Beneficence is doing good in a broad sense. The act of monitoring the chosen pain-management plan to ensure it works and to continue or modify treatment as necessary best exemplifies fidelity.

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5. Describe the role of cultural and linguistic access services in ethical nursing practice.

A. Use interpreters and culturally appropriate materials to ensure informed decisions.

B. Rely exclusively on family members for translation.

C. Avoid using interpreters to preserve privacy.

D. Limit information to written form in native language of staff.

Effective nursing care relies on clear, accurate communication and respect for patients' cultural values. Cultural and linguistic access services ensure that patients receive information in a way they can understand and in a form that aligns with their beliefs, enabling true informed consent and respecting autonomy. Using professional interpreters and culturally appropriate educational materials helps convey benefits, risks, and options accurately, supports shared decision-making, and reduces the risk of miscommunication that could lead to harm or misinformed choices. Relying exclusively on family members for translation can breach confidentiality, introduce bias or errors, and place an unfair burden on relatives. Avoiding interpreters in the name of privacy misinterprets privacy and often diminishes accuracy. Limiting information to written materials in the staff's native language ignores the patient's language needs and may not suit their literacy level or cultural context. Overall, providing culturally and linguistically accessible services is essential to ethical practice because it promotes informed decision-making, respects patient autonomy, and supports equitable care.

6. Which principle remains constant in professional nursing alongside responsibility, accountability, and advocacy?

A. Confidentiality

B. Autonomy

C. Justice

D. Beneficence

Confidentiality is the principle that remains constant in professional nursing. It centers on protecting a patient's private information and sharing it only with those involved in their care or when there is a compelling, legally justified reason to disclose. This commitment builds trust, supports informed consent, and upholds ethical codes and legal requirements. While responsibility, accountability, and advocacy guide how nurses act on behalf of patients, confidentiality provide a steady baseline condition for all interactions. Without it, patients may withhold information or decline care, and the integrity of the nurse–patient relationship would suffer. There are rare times when disclosure is required by law or when safety concerns demand it, but these are the exceptions rather than the rule. In daily practice, this means discussing patient information only with the appropriate members of the care team, protecting records, and avoiding sharing details in public or non-secure settings.

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7. Who can give informed consent in cases where a patient lacks capacity, and what standards guide surrogate decisions?

A. A legally authorized representative or surrogate makes decisions; standards include best interest, substituted judgment, and known patient preferences or advance directives.

B. The nurse decides best interest when capacity is lacking.

C. The family can decide with no formal standards.

D. Informed consent is waived when patient lacks capacity.

When a patient cannot give informed consent, someone legally authorized to do so must make the decision on the patient's behalf. The surrogate's role is guided by established standards: act in the patient's best interests, use substituted judgment if there is evidence about what the patient would have wanted, and honor any known preferences or advance directives the patient previously expressed. This framework preserves respect for the patient's autonomy by translating their values into care decisions even when they can't speak for themselves. The nurse does not bear the ultimate decision-making authority. Instead, the nurse's job is to provide clear information, help ensure the surrogate understands options, advocate for the patient's values, and support a lawful, informed consent process. Consent isn't waived; it's obtained from the appropriate surrogate or, if no surrogate exists, guided by applicable professional and legal standards.

8. Who plays a role in the formation of values, reinforcing or challenging family values?

A. Schools, governments, religious traditions, and other social institutions

B. Only immediate family members

C. Patients and doctors alone

D. Legal statutes exclusively

Values are formed through a mix of influences, not from a single source. Family provides the foundation—patterns, beliefs, and norms learned through daily interactions and caregiving—but broader social forces also shape what a person holds important. Schools introduce ideas about fairness, accountability, and collaboration; religious traditions transmit moral norms and duties; government, laws, and policies set expectations about conduct; peers, communities, and media convey norms and examples that can reinforce or challenge what one's family teaches. This ongoing interplay helps individuals internalize a broader set of values that guide behavior across different settings. So the best answer recognizes that many social institutions contribute to shaping values, not just immediate family. The other options are too narrow—values are not formed by patients and doctors alone, nor by legal statutes exclusively, and while family is influential, it isn't the only force at work.

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9. The principle that supports acting in the patient's best interest and promoting good is called?

A. Autonomy

B. Beneficence

C. Nonmaleficence

D. Veracity

Beneficence is the principle that supports acting in the patient's best interest and promoting good. In nursing ethics, it means taking actions that benefit the patient—relieving suffering, protecting health, and helping them achieve the best possible outcomes. This guides interventions like providing effective pain relief, timely care, and support that improves well-being, all while considering the patient's situation and values. Autonomy centers on the patient's right to make their own choices; nonmaleficence is about avoiding harm; veracity is about telling the truth. Beneficence and autonomy are balanced in practice, ensuring efforts to do good align with the patient's preferences and rights.

10. When ethical decisions are complex and goals are at stake, what is the role of ethics consultation?

A. Seek ethics consultation when decisions are ethically unclear and patient goals are at stake.

B. Avoid ethics consultations to save time.

C. Only involve ethics when patient demands it.

D. Ethics consultation is unnecessary if the family agrees.

When decisions are ethically complex and patient goals are at stake, ethics consultation provides a structured, neutral process to examine values, clarify goals, and compare options in light of patient autonomy and other ethical principles. It helps the team uncover what matters most to the patient, weigh benefits and burdens, and navigate disagreements among clinicians, patients, and families. This input supports decisions that honor the patient's goals while balancing beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice, and it considers practical implications and resources. Therefore, seeking ethics consultation in unclear situations with competing goals is the appropriate step. Rushing to decide without ethical guidance can overlook important values. Relying only on patient demands bypasses professional judgment and the broader context. Assuming involvement only when a patient asks can miss cases where the team or surrogate needs guidance. And agreement from the family doesn't automatically resolve ethical tensions or ensure alignment with the patient's own wishes.

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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://fundofnursingethicsvalues.examzify.com

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

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