NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR NURSING (NLN) MEDICATION 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. **Education for a patient prior to their initial dose of nitroglycerin for acute angina attacks should include which of the following?**

   A. Wait five minutes before taking the medication, if experiencing pain

   B. Discontinue the medication if the client experiences a headache

   C. Take a second dose ten minutes after the first dose, if no relief is felt

   D. Allow the medication to dissolve under the tongue

2. **What does the term "bioavailability" refer to?**

   A. The total amount of medication taken by a patient

   B. The proportion of a drug that enters circulation and is available for activity

   C. The percentage of drug eliminated from the body

   D. The time it takes for a drug to be metabolized

3. **Which medication should be avoided in patients with renal failure?**

   A. Ampicillin sodium (Omnipien-N)

   B. Calcitriol (Rocaltrol)

   C. Diphenhydramine hydrochloride (Benadryl)

   D. Tobramycin sulfate (Nebcin)

4. **What should be considered when administering medications to older adults?**

   A. Only the type of medication being used

   B. Age-related changes in pharmacokinetics and polypharmacy issues

   C. That most older adults prefer oral medications

   D. That older adults generally have fewer drug interactions

5. **Which of the following represents the volume of 1 quart in milliliters?**

   A. 500 ml

   B. 1000 ml

   C. 1500 ml

   D. 2000 ml

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6. Which of the following can contribute to a patient's non-compliance in medication schedules?

A. Understanding medication purpose

B. Complex medication regimens

C. Financial constraints

D. Supportive caregivers

7. What is necessary for a nurse to do prior to administering insulin?

A. Assess the patient's diet

B. Check blood glucose levels

C. Review the patient's mental status

D. Obtain vital signs

8. What is the definition of pharmacodynamics?

A. The study of how the body affects a drug.

B. The study of how a drug interacts with medical devices.

C. The study of how a drug affects the body.

D. The analysis of drug price differences.

9. In the event of a medication error, which action is least appropriate?

A. Assessing the patient's condition

B. Failing to report the error to a supervisor

C. Documenting the error

D. Notifying the healthcare provider

10. Which of the following is an adverse effect associated with captopril (Capoten)?

A. Dehydration

B. Peripheral edema

C. Hyperglycemia

D. Persistent cough

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Education for a patient prior to their initial dose of nitroglycerin for acute angina attacks should include which of the following?

A. Wait five minutes before taking the medication, if experiencing pain

B. Discontinue the medication if the client experiences a headache

C. Take a second dose ten minutes after the first dose, if no relief is felt

D. Allow the medication to dissolve under the tongue

Prior to taking nitroglycerin for acute angina attacks, it is essential for patients to understand the proper administration method to ensure the medication is effective. Allowing the medication to dissolve under the tongue is critical because nitroglycerin is rapidly absorbed through the oral mucosa into the bloodstream. This sublingual route allows for immediate onset of action, which is particularly important during an angina attack when quick relief of chest pain is needed. The sublingual administration bypasses the digestive system, thus facilitating faster relief compared to oral tablets that must be processed through the gastrointestinal tract. This method is essential for the drug's effectiveness. Proper education will help the patient use the medication correctly, minimizing anxiety related to their angina symptoms and improving treatment outcomes. The other options do not convey appropriate or safe practices concerning the administration and management of nitroglycerin. It's vital that patients are well-informed about their treatment to ensure both safety and efficacy.

2. What does the term "bioavailability" refer to?

A. The total amount of medication taken by a patient

B. The proportion of a drug that enters circulation and is available for activity

C. The percentage of drug eliminated from the body

D. The time it takes for a drug to be metabolized

Bioavailability refers specifically to the proportion of a drug that enters the systemic circulation when it is introduced into the body and becomes available for activity. This concept is crucial in pharmacology because it helps to determine how much of a drug will reach the target tissues and exert the desired therapeutic effects. Factors influencing bioavailability include the drug's formulation, route of administration, and physiological variables such as absorption and metabolism. Understanding bioavailability is essential for healthcare professionals when they assess the effectiveness of medications and consider appropriate dosages for patients. High bioavailability indicates that a significant amount of the drug is available for therapeutic action, while low bioavailability suggests that a smaller fraction is available to produce its intended effects. This focus on the proportion of the drug that is active in circulation differentiates bioavailability from concepts like total dosage taken or the elimination processes of the drug, which are covered in the other choices.

3. Which medication should be avoided in patients with renal failure?

A. Ampicillin sodium (Omnipien-N)

B. Calcitriol (Rocaltrol)

C. Diphenhydramine hydrochloride (Benadryl)

D. Tobramycin sulfate (Nebcin)

In patients with renal failure, certain medications can be particularly problematic due to the kidneys' impaired ability to filter and excrete drugs. Tobramycin sulfate is an aminoglycoside antibiotic that is primarily eliminated through the kidneys. In cases of renal impairment, the accumulation of the drug can lead to increased toxicity, particularly affecting the kidneys themselves (nephrotoxicity) and the ears (ototoxicity). For patients with compromised renal function, careful monitoring and potential dosage adjustments are necessary for many drugs, but aminoglycosides like tobramycin are especially risky. The potential for rapid accumulation in the body highlights the importance of avoiding this medication in individuals with renal failure or severe renal impairment to prevent adverse effects. While the other medications listed have varying implications in renal failure, they do not carry the same level of concern for toxicity specifically linked to renal impairment as tobramycin does.

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4. What should be considered when administering medications to older adults?

A. Only the type of medication being used

B. Age-related changes in pharmacokinetics and polypharmacy issues

C. That most older adults prefer oral medications

D. That older adults generally have fewer drug interactions

When administering medications to older adults, it is crucial to consider age-related changes in pharmacokinetics and the prevalence of polypharmacy issues. As individuals age, their bodies undergo physiological changes that impact how drugs are absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and excreted. For instance, alterations in liver and kidney function can significantly affect drug metabolism and clearance, leading to an increased risk of adverse effects or toxicities. Polypharmacy, the concurrent use of multiple medications, is common in older adults due to the presence of multiple chronic conditions. Each additional medication increases the risk of drug-drug interactions, which can complicate treatment regimens and potentially endanger patient safety. Recognizing these factors is essential for healthcare providers to carefully assess medication regimens and make informed decisions to ensure safe and effective medication administration for older adults. Consideration of only the type of medication ignores the complex interactions and alterations in pharmacokinetics that occur with aging. Assuming older adults' preferences for oral medications overlooks the variations in individual medical conditions or medication tolerability. Lastly, the notion that older adults generally experience fewer drug interactions is misleading, as they often face a higher risk due to their multiple medications and changed physiology. Understanding this context helps healthcare professionals tailor their approaches

5. Which of the following represents the volume of 1 quart in milliliters?

A. 500 ml

B. 1000 ml

C. 1500 ml

D. 2000 ml

One quart is a unit of volume commonly used in the United States and is equivalent to approximately 946.35 milliliters. When considering standard values, it is typically rounded to 1000 milliliters for practical purposes. This conversion is important for healthcare professionals, especially when administering medications or fluids, as accuracy in dosage is critical for patient safety. The choice of 1000 milliliters reflects a useful approximation that is widely accepted for conversions between quarts and milliliters, making it easier to remember and apply in clinical situations. Understanding this equivalence is essential for nurses and caregivers in administering proper liquid volumes.

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6. Which of the following can contribute to a patient's non-compliance in medication schedules?

A. Understanding medication purpose

B. Complex medication regimens

C. Financial constraints

D. Supportive caregivers

Complex medication regimens can significantly contribute to a patient's non-compliance in medication schedules. When patients are prescribed multiple medications with varying dosages, timings, and methods of administration, it can become overwhelming and confusing for them to adhere to the regimen. This complexity increases the risk of missed doses, incorrect administration, or complete disregard for the medication schedule. Patients may struggle to keep track of what they need to take and when, which can lead to frustration and disengagement from their own care. In contrast, simpler, more straightforward medication regimens tend to be easier for patients to follow, thereby improving compliance and ultimately enhancing treatment outcomes. This demonstrates the importance of considering the patient's capacity to manage their medications when designing treatment plans. When assessing medication adherence, healthcare providers must also take into account their patients' ability to understand their medications, their financial situation, and the support systems they have in place, as these factors can all play significant roles in their overall ability to comply with a prescribed regimen.

7. What is necessary for a nurse to do prior to administering insulin?

A. Assess the patient's diet

B. Check blood glucose levels

C. Review the patient's mental status

D. Obtain vital signs

Checking blood glucose levels is essential prior to administering insulin because insulin is directly related to the patient's current blood sugar levels. Administering insulin without knowing the patient's blood glucose can lead to potentially dangerous situations, such as hypoglycemia if the patient's blood sugar is already low. Blood glucose monitoring helps determine if the insulin dose prescribed is appropriate based on the patient's needs at that moment. While assessing the patient's diet, reviewing mental status, and obtaining vital signs are all important components of overall patient care, they do not provide the immediate, vital information needed to make the safe decision about insulin administration. Understanding the patient's current blood sugar level is a critical step in managing diabetes effectively and safely dosing insulin.

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8. What is the definition of pharmacodynamics?

A. The study of how the body affects a drug.

B. The study of how a drug interacts with medical devices.

C. The study of how a drug affects the body.

D. The analysis of drug price differences.

The definition of pharmacodynamics is focused on how a drug affects the body. This area of study examines the biochemical and physiological effects of drugs, including their mechanisms of action, the relationship between drug concentration and effect, and how different variables such as patient physiology can influence these effects. Understanding pharmacodynamics is essential for determining dosing regimens, predicting therapeutic outcomes, and recognizing potential side effects. In this context, while the other definitions provided might pertain to related fields, they do not accurately describe pharmacodynamics. The study of how the body affects a drug pertains to pharmacokinetics, which encompasses absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of drugs. The interaction of drugs with medical devices describes a very specific area of study that is not encompassed by pharmacodynamics. Lastly, analyzing drug price differences pertains to pharmaceutical economics or market analysis, which is unrelated to the pharmacodynamic properties of drugs themselves. Therefore, the focus on how a drug affects the body clearly aligns with the definition of pharmacodynamics.

9. In the event of a medication error, which action is least appropriate?

A. Assessing the patient's condition

B. Failing to report the error to a supervisor

C. Documenting the error

D. Notifying the healthcare provider

In the case of a medication error, the least appropriate action is failing to report the error to a supervisor. Reporting the error is crucial for several reasons. It ensures that the healthcare team is aware of the incident, allowing them to take necessary actions to mitigate any negative impact on the patient's health. It also contributes to a culture of safety where learning from errors is encouraged to prevent future occurrences. Documentation of the error is essential for maintaining accurate medical records and for evaluating the patient's response to the medication process. Assessing the patient's condition is also a fundamental step, as it allows healthcare providers to address any immediate effects of the error on the patient's health. Notifying the healthcare provider is likewise important, as they may need to adjust the patient's treatment plan based on the error. Collectively, these actions contribute to patient safety and the overall improvement of healthcare practices.

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10. Which of the following is an adverse effect associated with captopril (Capoten)?

A. Dehydration

B. Peripheral edema

C. Hyperglycemia

D. Persistent cough

Captopril (Capoten) is an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor that is commonly used to treat hypertension and heart failure. One of the well-documented adverse effects associated with ACE inhibitors is a persistent cough. This cough occurs due to the accumulation of bradykinin, a peptide that can increase when ACE is inhibited. The increase in bradykinin is tied to the mechanism of action of captopril, leading to irritation of the respiratory tract and, consequently, a chronic cough in some patients. In clinical practice, if patients experience a persistent cough while on captopril, healthcare providers often consider switching to an alternative medication that does not have this side effect. This understanding of the adverse effects is vital for both patient management and educational purposes for nursing students. In contrast, dehydration is not a direct result of captopril but can be a concern in certain patient populations or situations, particularly if there's significant diuretic use. Peripheral edema may occur in some patients taking antihypertensive medications, but it is not specifically linked to captopril. Hyperglycemia is more relevant to certain other medications, such as corticosteroids or some classes of diabetes medications, rather than an adverse effect of ACE inhibitors like

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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://nln-medication.examzify.com

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

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