NCLEX ARCHER PHARMACOLOGY 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 one of the side effects of mirtazapine?

A. Increased energy

B. Decreased appetite

C. Drowsiness

D. Constipation

2. What adverse effect should a nurse monitor in a client receiving enoxaparin?

A. Leukocytosis

B. Thrombocytopenia

C. Polycythemia

D. Neutropenia

3. What should a client prescribed tamsulosin be advised to do while on this medication?

A. Drink more fluids

B. Change positions slowly

C. Monitor for increased urination

D. Avoid sunlight exposure

4. What statement indicates a client's understanding of venlafaxine therapy?

A. "I should expect to feel better immediately."

B. "I may have increased thoughts of harming myself."

C. "This medication will not affect my blood pressure."

D. "I need to follow up with weekly laboratory tests."

5. Which potential side effect should a patient taking lisinopril be aware of regarding taste perception?

A. "Change in sensation of taste."

B. "No change in food preferences."

C. "Increased appetite."

D. "Altered sense of smell."

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6. What should the nurse assess for in a patient receiving naloxone?

A. Signs of withdrawal

B. Paralytic ileus

C. Hypoglycemia

D. Hypotension

7. If an order states to administer 600 mg ibuprofen, how many 200 mg tablets will be administered?

A. 1 tablet

B. 5 tablets

C. 3 tablets

D. 2 tablets

8. Which anticholinergic medication is primarily used to treat urinary bladder urgency and incontinence?

A. Dicyclomine

B. Ipratropium

C. Oxybutynin

D. Scopolamine

9. Which medication should the nurse clarify with the healthcare provider for a patient prescribed sildenafil?

A. Lisinopril

B. Isosorbide

C. Atorvastatin

D. Losartan

10. Which statement about carbamazepine requires clarification when teaching a patient?

A. This medication will require weekly dosage adjustments

B. Avoid taking this medication with grapefruit

C. This medication may make your emotions more intense

D. Take this medication if you feel like you are going to have a seizure

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is one of the side effects of mirtazapine?

A. Increased energy

B. Decreased appetite

C. Drowsiness

D. Constipation

Mirtazapine is an atypical antidepressant commonly used to treat major depressive disorder. One of its notable side effects is drowsiness or sedation. This occurs because mirtazapine acts as an antagonist at central alpha-2 adrenergic receptors and also antagonizes certain serotonin receptors, which can lead to increased sedation, particularly when a patient first starts the medication or when their dosage is increased. The sedative effect can be beneficial for patients who struggle with insomnia associated with depression. However, it's important for patients to be aware of this potential side effect as it may impact their daily activities, especially those that require alertness, such as driving or operating heavy machinery. In contrast, while mirtazapine may be associated with weight gain and increased appetite in some patients, drowsiness remains a prominent side effect that clinicians monitor. Other options like increased energy, decreased appetite, or constipation are not typical side effects of mirtazapine; instead, they may be more closely associated with other types of antidepressants or may not be characteristics of mirtazapine's pharmacological actions.

2. What adverse effect should a nurse monitor in a client receiving enoxaparin?

A. Leukocytosis

B. Thrombocytopenia

C. Polycythemia

D. Neutropenia

Enoxaparin is a low molecular weight heparin used for anticoagulation purposes, primarily to prevent and treat deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. One of the significant adverse effects associated with the use of enoxaparin is thrombocytopenia, which is a decrease in the number of platelets in the blood. This condition can result from heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT), where the body develops antibodies against heparin-platelet factor 4 complexes. Monitoring platelet counts in patients receiving enoxaparin is crucial because thrombocytopenia can lead to an increased risk of bleeding, making it essential for the nurse to identify any drops in platelet levels early. Patients with thrombocytopenia may not exhibit any symptoms until the condition becomes serious, leading to complications. Therefore, vigilant monitoring can prevent adverse outcomes associated with this side effect. While the other options listed may have their implications in different clinical scenarios, none are specifically tied to the use of enoxaparin in the way that thrombocytopenia is. Hence, understanding the importance of monitoring for thrombocytopenia is vital for the safe administration of enoxaparin in clinical practice.

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3. What should a client prescribed tamsulosin be advised to do while on this medication?

A. Drink more fluids

B. Change positions slowly

C. Monitor for increased urination

D. Avoid sunlight exposure

A client prescribed tamsulosin should be advised to change positions slowly due to the medication's potential side effect of causing orthostatic hypotension. Tamsulosin, an alpha-1 blocker often used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), works by relaxing muscles in the prostate and bladder neck, making it easier to urinate. However, it can also lead to a drop in blood pressure when transitioning from sitting or lying down to standing. This drop in blood pressure can result in dizziness or fainting, especially in the initial stages of treatment or if the dose is increased. Educating the client to change positions slowly, such as sitting up carefully before standing, can help mitigate these risks and promote safety while on the medication. Awareness about other factors like hydration is important, but increasing fluid intake could lead to more frequent urination, which isn't a specific recommendation related to tamsulosin. Monitoring for increased urination is also not a direct concern with tamsulosin since the intention of the medication is to improve urinary symptoms, rather than to cause increased urination. While sun protection is generally good advice, it is not specifically related to the use of tamsulosin. Thus, the emphasis on changing positions

4. What statement indicates a client's understanding of venlafaxine therapy?

A. "I should expect to feel better immediately."

B. "I may have increased thoughts of harming myself."

C. "This medication will not affect my blood pressure."

D. "I need to follow up with weekly laboratory tests."

The statement that indicates a client's understanding of venlafaxine therapy is that they may have increased thoughts of harming themselves. Venlafaxine is a serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI) used primarily to treat depression and anxiety disorders. One important consideration when initiating or adjusting the dose of this medication is the potential for an increase in suicidal thoughts or behaviors, especially in the early stages of treatment or when doses are changed. This risk is particularly heightened in younger populations and those with a history of suicidal ideation. While patients may experience benefits from the medication, it is crucial for them to be aware of this serious potential side effect. Regular follow-up with healthcare providers is important to monitor for any worsening of symptoms or emergence of suicidal thoughts, ensuring patient safety. The other statements do not accurately reflect the nature of venlafaxine therapy. For instance, the expectation of feeling immediate improvement oversimplifies the therapeutic timeline of antidepressants, which typically takes several weeks to show significant effects. As for blood pressure, venlafaxine can actually cause dose-dependent increases in blood pressure, especially at higher doses. Lastly, while ongoing assessment is necessary, the frequency and nature of lab tests needed for venlafaxine therapy are not typically

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5. Which potential side effect should a patient taking lisinopril be aware of regarding taste perception?

A. "Change in sensation of taste."

B. "No change in food preferences."

C. "Increased appetite."

D. "Altered sense of smell."

Patients taking lisinopril, which is an ACE inhibitor used primarily for managing hypertension and heart failure, should be aware of the potential for a change in sensation of taste. This side effect is associated with the medication's mechanism and effects on the body, particularly involving certain processes that can affect taste buds and oral mucosa. A change in taste perception can manifest as a metallic or altered taste, which may affect the way foods are perceived and enjoyed. This side effect can occur in some patients without necessarily leading to other systemic issues, and it is important for patients to recognize that while it may be temporary, it can be distressing or affect their dietary habits. Understanding this potential side effect helps patients manage their expectations and communicate any concerns with their healthcare providers promptly.

6. What should the nurse assess for in a patient receiving naloxone?

A. Signs of withdrawal

B. Paralytic ileus

C. Hypoglycemia

D. Hypotension

In a patient receiving naloxone, the nurse should assess for signs of withdrawal. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist, meaning it works by blocking the effects of opioids. When administered to someone who is dependent on opioids, naloxone can precipitate withdrawal symptoms. These symptoms may include agitation, nausea, vomiting, increased heart rate, tremors, and other manifestations of opioid withdrawal. Monitoring for these signs is crucial, especially as the patient may experience significant discomfort during the withdrawal process. The other options, such as paralytic ileus, hypoglycemia, and hypotension, while important considerations in various clinical scenarios, are not direct consequences of naloxone administration. Paralytic ileus is more associated with opioid use rather than withdrawal. Hypoglycemia is generally related to insulin and diabetic medications, while hypotension can occur due to numerous factors unrelated to the withdrawal process following naloxone administration. Therefore, the focus on signs of withdrawal is key in managing a patient receiving naloxone.

7. If an order states to administer 600 mg ibuprofen, how many 200 mg tablets will be administered?

A. 1 tablet

B. 5 tablets

C. 3 tablets

D. 2 tablets

To determine how many 200 mg ibuprofen tablets are needed to achieve a total dose of 600 mg, you can divide the total dose by the strength of one tablet. The equation is: 600 mg total dose ÷ 200 mg per tablet = 3 tablets. This calculation shows that to reach the total of 600 mg, you would need to administer three 200 mg tablets. This understanding of medication dosage and conversions is crucial in nursing practice to ensure safe and effective patient care.

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8. Which anticholinergic medication is primarily used to treat urinary bladder urgency and incontinence?

A. Dicyclomine

B. Ipratropium

C. Oxybutynin

D. Scopolamine

Oxybutynin is primarily used to treat urinary bladder urgency and incontinence due to its antispsmodic properties. It works by inhibiting the action of acetylcholine on muscarinic receptors in the bladder, which helps to relax the bladder muscle and reduce urinary urgency and frequency. This makes it especially effective for patients experiencing overactive bladder symptoms. Dicyclomine, while also an anticholinergic, is mainly used to treat gastrointestinal conditions like irritable bowel syndrome, and its effects on bladder function are not the primary use. Ipratropium is an anticholinergic used mainly for respiratory conditions, particularly to relieve bronchospasms, and does not target bladder symptoms. Scopolamine is primarily used for motion sickness and does not have a significant role in managing urinary incontinence. Therefore, oxybutynin stands out as the most appropriate choice for urinary bladder issues, specifically addressing urgency and incontinence.

9. Which medication should the nurse clarify with the healthcare provider for a patient prescribed sildenafil?

A. Lisinopril

B. Isosorbide

C. Atorvastatin

D. Losartan

Sildenafil, commonly known for treating erectile dysfunction and pulmonary hypertension, works by inhibiting phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5), leading to vasodilation and increased blood flow. When considering its use, it is crucial to be aware of potential interactions with other medications, especially those that can cause additional vasodilation. Isosorbide, a medication used primarily for angina pectoris, acts as a nitrate which can also induce vasodilation. When administered in conjunction with sildenafil, there is a significant risk of hypotension due to the additive effects of both medications in lowering blood pressure. This combination can lead to severe side effects, such as dizziness, fainting, or even more serious cardiovascular complications. In contrast, lisinopril, atorvastatin, and losartan do not carry the same risk of potentiating hypotension when used with sildenafil. Lisinopril and losartan are both antihypertensives, but they work through different mechanisms that do not cause the same immediate vasodilatory effects as nitrates. Atorvastatin is a medication that helps lower cholesterol levels and does not impact blood pressure in the same way. Therefore, the nurse should clarify the use of isosorbide with

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10. Which statement about carbamazepine requires clarification when teaching a patient?

A. This medication will require weekly dosage adjustments

B. Avoid taking this medication with grapefruit

C. This medication may make your emotions more intense

D. Take this medication if you feel like you are going to have a seizure

The statement that requires clarification is that carbamazepine will require weekly dosage adjustments. Carbamazepine is an antiepileptic medication that is typically initiated at a low dosage, which may be gradually adjusted based on the patient's response, therapeutic plasma levels, and tolerance of side effects. However, this does not necessarily mean that weekly adjustments are required. Dosage adjustments usually happen over a longer period and are not frequently made on a weekly basis unless directed by a healthcare provider based on specific clinical circumstances. In contrast, avoiding grapefruit when taking carbamazepine is accurate because grapefruit can inhibit the metabolism of the drug, potentially leading to increased levels in the bloodstream and a higher risk of side effects. The statement regarding heightened emotions is also correct; carbamazepine can affect the central nervous system and lead to mood changes in some individuals. Lastly, it's important for patients to understand that carbamazepine is a preventative medication, and it should be taken regularly to maintain therapeutic levels rather than only during a pre-seizure feeling. This nuance emphasizes the importance of consistent medication adherence rather than on-demand use.

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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://nclexarcherpharmacology.examzify.com

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

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