ONTARIO REGISTERED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (RPHT) 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. Thiazide diuretics are used to:

A. Relieve migraine headaches

B. Relieve gastroenteritis

C. Manage pain

D. Manage retention of water

2. What are considered "over-the-counter (OTC)" medications?

A. Medications only available through a prescription

B. Medications that require a pharmacist consultation

C. Medications that can be purchased without a prescription

D. Medications limited to hospital settings

3. Which of the following conditions is the drug rifampin used to treat?

A. Influenza

B. Tuberculosis

C. Nail fungus

D. Urinary Tract infection

4. Which schedule of drugs includes highly controlled substances such as heroin?

A. Schedule II

B. Schedule III

C. Schedule IV

D. Schedule I

5. How should pharmacy technicians handle patient allergies and intolerances?

A. They are not responsible for this

B. They must document and communicate any known allergies and intolerances

C. Only inform the pharmacist verbally

D. Assume all patients have common allergies

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6. What is a pharmacy technician's role in patient education?

A. Providing detailed clinical assessments

B. Dispensing medications without patient interaction

C. Counseling patients on medication use and health management

D. Setting up medical equipment

7. What is the purpose of a "Drug Utilization Review" (DUR)?

A. To repackage drugs for efficiency

B. To evaluate a patient's medication regimen for potential issues or interactions

C. To increase pharmacy sales

D. To prepare for pharmacy inspections

8. What is the significance of the "Best Possible Medication History" (BPMH)?

A. It helps in calculating pharmacy profits

B. It provides a comprehensive overview of a patient's medications to inform safe and effective prescribing

C. It is used for patient surveys

D. It assists in training new pharmacy staff

9. What is the primary difference between generic and brand-name drugs?

A. Generic drugs have unique branding

B. Brand-name drugs are more effective

C. Generic drugs are chemically identical to brand-name drugs but sold under their chemical name

D. Brand-name drugs have fewer side effects

10. The manufacturer's expiration date for a drug is 12/18, the drug is considered acceptable to dispense until which date?

A. 12/01/2018

B. 12/31/2018

C. 11/30/2018

D. 1/01/2019

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Thiazide diuretics are used to:

A. Relieve migraine headaches

B. Relieve gastroenteritis

C. Manage pain

D. Manage retention of water

Thiazide diuretics are a type of medication that helps remove excess water and salt from the body through urination. This is why they are used to manage retention of water, or fluid retention, in patients with certain health conditions such as high blood pressure, heart failure, and kidney disease. Using thiazide diuretics can help decrease swelling and bloating by reducing the amount of fluid in the body. It is not an effective medication for relieving migraine headaches, gastroenteritis, or managing pain. Therefore, options A, B, and C are incorrect.

2. What are considered "over-the-counter (OTC)" medications?

A. Medications only available through a prescription

B. Medications that require a pharmacist consultation

C. Medications that can be purchased without a prescription

D. Medications limited to hospital settings

Over-the-counter (OTC) medications are those that can be purchased without a prescription. These medications are accessible to consumers directly through retail outlets such as pharmacies, grocery stores, or convenience stores, and do not require a healthcare provider's approval or intervention for their use. This classification allows individuals to self-manage common ailments, such as headaches, allergies, or colds, safely and effectively without the need for direct medical oversight. The other options refer to various aspects of medication access. For instance, some medications that require a prescription are classified as prescription medications and are not available to the public without that authorization. Medications that require a pharmacist consultation generally fall into the category of "behind-the-counter" medications and may include certain products that are not strictly OTC but are not fully prescription medications either. Medications limited to hospital settings are typically administered by healthcare professionals and are not available to the general public, aligning them with prescription medications rather than OTC categories.

3. Which of the following conditions is the drug rifampin used to treat?

A. Influenza

B. Tuberculosis

C. Nail fungus

D. Urinary Tract infection

Rifampin is an antibiotic medication that is primarily used to treat tuberculosis, making option B the correct answer. Influenza is a viral infection and cannot be treated with rifampin. Nail fungus is a fungal infection and urinary tract infections are caused by bacteria, therefore, neither can be treated with rifampin. It is important to correctly match the medication to the condition it is designed to treat in order to ensure proper treatment and effectiveness.

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4. Which schedule of drugs includes highly controlled substances such as heroin?

A. Schedule II

B. Schedule III

C. Schedule IV

D. Schedule I

The classification of drugs into schedules is based on their potential for abuse and the degree of control that is required over their distribution and use. Schedule I includes substances that are considered to have a high potential for abuse and addiction, and they often have little to no accepted medical use in Canada. Heroin is classified under this schedule due to its severe addictive properties and potential for misuse. In contrast, other schedules such as Schedule II, III, and IV typically contain substances with lower potential for abuse and may have recognized medical uses. For instance, Schedule II contains controlled substances like opioid medications that can be prescribed, but they still require a higher level of regulation due to their effects. Schedule III and IV include substances with progressively lower potential for abuse and risk, allowing for more lenient controls regarding their prescription and dispensing. Understanding these classifications is crucial for pharmacy technicians, as they have responsibilities related to the handling, dispensing, and advising on these substances, ensuring that appropriate legal and safety protocols are followed.

5. How should pharmacy technicians handle patient allergies and intolerances?

A. They are not responsible for this

B. They must document and communicate any known allergies and intolerances

C. Only inform the pharmacist verbally

D. Assume all patients have common allergies

Pharmacy technicians play a crucial role in ensuring patient safety, and documenting and communicating any known allergies and intolerances is essential in this process. This responsibility includes obtaining a complete medication history from the patient and identifying any known allergies to medications, food, or other substances. By thoroughly documenting these allergies, pharmacy technicians contribute to reducing the risk of adverse reactions and medication errors. Furthermore, conveying this information to the pharmacist and other healthcare providers is vital for safe medication management. This collaborative approach ensures that the healthcare team is aware of each patient's specific needs and can make informed decisions regarding treatment. Proper documentation and communication help establish a comprehensive understanding of the patient's profile, thereby enhancing the quality of care provided.

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6. What is a pharmacy technician's role in patient education?

A. Providing detailed clinical assessments

B. Dispensing medications without patient interaction

C. Counseling patients on medication use and health management

D. Setting up medical equipment

A pharmacy technician's role in patient education primarily involves counseling patients on medication use and health management. This responsibility is crucial because it helps ensure that patients understand how to correctly use their medications, what side effects to expect, and how to manage their health condition effectively. In many pharmacy settings, pharmacy technicians serve as a vital resource for patients, offering guidance and information that can lead to better medication adherence and health outcomes. This interaction also allows technicians to clarify any medication-related questions patients may have, aiding in the overall care provided by the healthcare team. Providing detailed clinical assessments typically falls within the scope of practice for pharmacists or other healthcare professionals with advanced training. Dispensing medications without patient interaction does not align with the emphasis on patient education and engagement that is integral to the role of a pharmacy technician. Setting up medical equipment is not a standard responsibility for pharmacy technicians, as their primary focus is on medication management and patient education.

7. What is the purpose of a "Drug Utilization Review" (DUR)?

A. To repackage drugs for efficiency

B. To evaluate a patient's medication regimen for potential issues or interactions

C. To increase pharmacy sales

D. To prepare for pharmacy inspections

The purpose of a "Drug Utilization Review" (DUR) is primarily to evaluate a patient's medication regimen for potential issues or interactions. DUR is a systematic process aimed at ensuring that the medications prescribed to a patient are appropriate, effective, and safe. This review often involves analyzing the patient's medication history, current medications, and any pertinent clinical data to identify potential drug interactions, contraindications, duplicate therapy, and any other issues that could affect patient safety and treatment outcomes. Conducting a thorough DUR is essential because it helps healthcare providers make informed decisions regarding a patient's treatment plan. By identifying and addressing issues before they lead to adverse drug events, DUR ultimately promotes better patient health and enhances the quality of care. The other options focus on unrelated activities. Repackaging drugs is a logistical task that does not inherently involve patient safety assessments. Increasing pharmacy sales refers to a commercial goal that is not aligned with the clinical purpose of DUR. Preparing for pharmacy inspections may address regulatory compliance, but it does not pertain to the evaluation of patient medications. Thus, the focus of a DUR squarely lies on patient medication management and safety, confirming that the selected answer accurately reflects its core purpose.

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8. What is the significance of the "Best Possible Medication History" (BPMH)?

A. It helps in calculating pharmacy profits

B. It provides a comprehensive overview of a patient's medications to inform safe and effective prescribing

C. It is used for patient surveys

D. It assists in training new pharmacy staff

The "Best Possible Medication History" (BPMH) plays a crucial role in ensuring patient safety and optimizing medication management. It provides a thorough and accurate account of a patient's complete medication regimen, including prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, herbal supplements, and any other substances. This comprehensive overview is essential for healthcare professionals, especially pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, because it allows them to identify potential medication discrepancies, drug interactions, duplications, and opportunities for medication optimization. By utilizing the BPMH, healthcare providers can make well-informed decisions regarding prescribing, thus enhancing the safety and effectiveness of the treatment plan. It fosters better communication among the healthcare team and ensures that everyone involved is aware of what the patient is actually taking. This leads to improved health outcomes and a reduction in adverse drug events, making the BPMH a vital component of patient care.

9. What is the primary difference between generic and brand-name drugs?

A. Generic drugs have unique branding

B. Brand-name drugs are more effective

C. Generic drugs are chemically identical to brand-name drugs but sold under their chemical name

D. Brand-name drugs have fewer side effects

The primary difference between generic and brand-name drugs lies in their chemical composition and naming. Generic drugs are chemically identical to their branded counterparts, meaning they contain the same active ingredients, dosage form, strength, and route of administration. They are often sold under their chemical or non-proprietary name, which helps distinguish them from brand names that may be more familiar to consumers. Generic drugs undergo rigorous testing to ensure they meet the same standards of quality, safety, and efficacy as the brand-name versions. They are typically marketed at lower prices, making them more accessible to patients while providing the same therapeutic benefits. This identical composition is essential to ensure that patients receive the same medical effect as they would with the brand-name drug, contributing to the increased availability of medications in the healthcare system. Other aspects, such as branding or perceived effectiveness, do not accurately capture the primary distinction between these two categories of drugs.

10. The manufacturer's expiration date for a drug is 12/18, the drug is considered acceptable to dispense until which date?

A. 12/01/2018

B. 12/31/2018

C. 11/30/2018

D. 1/01/2019

Since the manufacturer's expiration date for the drug is 12/18, it is acceptable to dispense the drug until the end of the month, which would be 12/31/2018. Option A, 12/01/2018, is before the expiration date and therefore not acceptable. Option C, 11/30/2018, is also before the expiration date and is even further away from it, making it an even less acceptable option. Option D, 1/01/2019, is after the expiration date and therefore not acceptable as well. The expiration date is a set date and the closest acceptable date would be the end of that month, which is represented by option B.

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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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