TRAUMA CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE (TCRN) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://tcrn.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1
Table of Contents 2
Introduction 3
How to Use This Guide 4
Questions 5
Answers 8
Explanations 10
Next Steps 16

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. **Subcutaneous emphysema is most closely associated with which condition?**

   A. Hemothorax

   B. Sternal fracture

   C. Open pneumothorax

   D. Ruptured diaphragm

2. **In a situation where a patient has a significant subdural hematoma but is alert and oriented, who retains the primary decision-making authority?**

   A. The patient's son

   B. The patient's brother

   C. The patient's son's wife

   D. The patient themselves

3. **Which approach is used for achieving secondary injury prevention?**

   A. Creating surgical protocols for trauma operations

   B. Implementing educational programs in the community

   C. Conducting emergency response drills

   D. Establishing patient data registries

4. **Which statement accurately describes a Chance fracture?**

   A. It occurs from vertical axial compression.

   B. It is commonly referred to as a "seatbelt fracture".

   C. It results from hyperextension during a rear-end collision.

   D. It primarily affects cervical vertebrae.

5. **What is the first priority in treating a patient with penetrating trauma and hemorrhagic shock?**

   A. Immediate surgery

   B. Fluid resuscitation

   C. Blood transfusion

   D. Pain management

SAMPLE

6. What does a hazards vulnerability analysis aim to achieve in a healthcare setting?

A. Recognize potential disasters

B. Improve patient satisfaction

C. Enhance operational efficiency

D. Identify medication errors

7. After a house fire, what is the most important aspect of clinical evaluation?

A. Depth of burn

B. Surface area of burn

C. Inhalation injury

D. Fluid status

8. What mechanism of injury is more likely to cause damage to the tracheobronchial area?

A. Blunt trauma

B. Penetrating trauma

C. Thermal injury

D. Drowning

9. Which component is part of the simple triage and rapid treatment (START) method?

A. Respiration

B. Pulse

C. Mental status

D. All of the above

10. Buprenorphine is most likely considered to:

A. Reduce the risk of opioid withdrawal

B. Sedate patients with increased intracranial pressure

C. Elevate blood pressure in coagulopathies

D. Alter bleeding patterns

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Subcutaneous emphysema is most closely associated with which condition?

A. Hemothorax

B. Sternal fracture

C. Open pneumothorax

D. Ruptured diaphragm

Subcutaneous emphysema occurs when air leaks into the subcutaneous tissues, typically as a result of trauma to the respiratory system or the airways. It is most commonly associated with conditions that allow air to escape from the tracheobronchial tree into the soft tissues. In the case of an open pneumothorax, the chest wall is compromised, allowing external air to enter the pleural space and potentially leading to the leakage of air into the subcutaneous tissue. This can occur through a defect in the chest wall caused by a penetrating injury, which not only allows air to enter the pleural cavity but may also facilitate air migration into the subcutaneous layer. The presence of subcutaneous emphysema in open pneumothorax is a clear indication of air escaping from the chest cavity into surrounding soft tissues, thereby establishing a direct link between these two. Other conditions listed, such as hemothorax, sternal fracture, and ruptured diaphragm, may involve significant trauma and potentially lead to the development of other complications, but they do not inherently allow for the same direct mechanism of air entry into the subcutaneous space as does an open pneumothorax.

2. In a situation where a patient has a significant subdural hematoma but is alert and oriented, who retains the primary decision-making authority?

A. The patient's son

B. The patient's brother

C. The patient's son's wife

D. The patient themselves

In situations involving medical decisions, the individual who is alert and oriented, and capable of understanding the implications of their choices, retains the primary decision-making authority. In this scenario, since the patient is described as alert and oriented despite having a significant subdural hematoma, they have the capacity to comprehend the information provided to them regarding their condition and treatment options. This means that the patient can participate in discussions about their care, ask questions, and make informed choices about the procedures or interventions they may need. Even in the presence of a serious medical condition, if the patient demonstrates understanding and cognitive function, they maintain the right to make decisions regarding their own healthcare. Other family members, such as the son, brother, or son's wife, would typically have a role in supporting the patient or may be consulted for their perspectives, but they do not hold primary authority for decision-making unless the patient is deemed unable to do so due to lack of understanding or a diminished capacity to make informed choices.

SAMPLE

3. Which approach is used for achieving secondary injury prevention?

A. Creating surgical protocols for trauma operations

B. Implementing educational programs in the community

C. Conducting emergency response drills

D. Establishing patient data registries

Implementing educational programs in the community is a crucial strategy for achieving secondary injury prevention. This approach aims to raise awareness about trauma prevention, address risk factors, and educate the public on recognizing and responding to specific injury types. By providing knowledge about safe behaviors and emergency procedures, individuals in the community can reduce the likelihood of secondary injuries, which often occur as a consequence of the initial trauma or as a reaction to the traumatic event. Educational programs are effective at promoting best practices, such as the use of seat belts, helmet safety, fall prevention strategies, and other safety measures that can help to mitigate the severity of injuries sustained during traumatic incidents. They also empower community members to act confidently and effectively in emergency situations, potentially lowering the incidence of further harm. In contrast, surgical protocols, emergency response drills, and patient data registries serve different roles. While surgical protocols help ensure effective treatment during operative procedures, they focus more on immediate injury management rather than broader preventive education. Emergency response drills are important for improving readiness and coordination in responding to trauma but do not directly educate the community. Patient data registries collect and analyze information for research and quality improvement but do not actively engage in prevention education.

4. Which statement accurately describes a Chance fracture?

A. It occurs from vertical axial compression.

B. It is commonly referred to as a "seatbelt fracture".

C. It results from hyperextension during a rear-end collision.

D. It primarily affects cervical vertebrae.

A Chance fracture is a specific type of spinal injury that typically occurs from flexion-distraction forces, commonly associated with motor vehicle accidents, particularly when a person is restrained by a seatbelt. This type of fracture most often involves the lumbar spine and presents as a fracture through the vertebral body along with a posterior ligamentous injury. When referring to it as a "seatbelt fracture," this term highlights the mechanism of injury that is often seen when the torso is forcibly pulled forward while the pelvis remains restrained by the seatbelt, causing a divergent stress pattern that leads to this characteristic spinal injury. This injury pattern can involve both bony disruption and soft tissue injury, which is essential in managing such trauma cases. The other options do not accurately describe the specific mechanisms or characteristics of a Chance fracture. Vertical axial compression is more commonly associated with different types of fractures, while hyperextension during a rear-end collision does not classification as a Chance fracture. Additionally, while Chance fractures can affect any part of the spine, they do not specifically or primarily affect cervical vertebrae, as they are most often noted in the lumbar region.

SAMPLE

5. What is the first priority in treating a patient with penetrating trauma and hemorrhagic shock?

A. Immediate surgery

B. Fluid resuscitation

C. Blood transfusion

D. Pain management

In cases of penetrating trauma accompanied by hemorrhagic shock, the foremost priority is fluid resuscitation. This is critical because the immediate goal is to restore circulating blood volume and improve perfusion to vital organs. Hemorrhagic shock indicates significant blood loss, which can lead to a decreased blood pressure and inadequate oxygenation of tissues. Administering fluids promptly helps to stabilize the patient's hemodynamic status, allowing the body to compensate for the loss of blood and maintain organ function. Once fluid resuscitation is initiated, other interventions such as blood transfusion and immediate surgery can follow based on the patient's specific needs. While pain management is an important aspect of overall patient care, it does not take precedence over addressing the life-threatening condition of hemorrhagic shock. Therefore, prioritizing fluid resuscitation aligns with the critical protocols in trauma management aimed at stabilizing patients quickly.

6. What does a hazards vulnerability analysis aim to achieve in a healthcare setting?

A. Recognize potential disasters

B. Improve patient satisfaction

C. Enhance operational efficiency

D. Identify medication errors

A hazards vulnerability analysis in a healthcare setting primarily aims to recognize potential disasters. This systematic approach allows healthcare facilities to identify and assess various risks and vulnerabilities to their operations, patients, and staff, including natural disasters, technological failures, or external threats. By understanding the types of hazards that could potentially impact the facility, healthcare organizations can develop appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery plans. This insight enables them to prioritize resources effectively and implement proactive measures to mitigate the risks associated with identified hazards, ultimately ensuring patient safety and the continuity of healthcare services during adverse events.

7. After a house fire, what is the most important aspect of clinical evaluation?

A. Depth of burn

B. Surface area of burn

C. Inhalation injury

D. Fluid status

The most important aspect of clinical evaluation after a house fire is inhalation injury. House fires typically produce smoke, toxic gases, and a combination of thermal and chemical injuries that can severely affect the respiratory system. Inhalation injury can lead to significant complications such as airway obstruction, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), and respiratory failure, which can be life-threatening if not identified and managed promptly. Evaluating for inhalation injury includes closely monitoring the patient for signs of respiratory distress, altered mental status, or any changes in pulmonary function. Early recognition of inhalation injuries allows for timely intervention, such as securing the airway and providing oxygen therapy or mechanical ventilation, if necessary. While depth of burn, surface area of burn, and fluid status are important considerations in managing burn injuries, the potential for immediate respiratory compromise due to inhalation injury can take precedence in a post-fire scenario. This highlights the cardiovascular and systemic implications that can arise from airway injury, making it a critical component of the clinical assessment after incidents involving fires.

SAMPLE

8. What mechanism of injury is more likely to cause damage to the tracheobronchial area?

A. Blunt trauma

B. Penetrating trauma

C. Thermal injury

D. Drowning

Penetrating trauma is associated with a higher likelihood of causing damage to the tracheobronchial area due to its direct impact on the structures involved. This type of trauma involves an object that pierces through the skin and underlying tissues, potentially cutting through the layers that protect the trachea and bronchi. When a sharp object penetrates the chest wall, it can create lacerations or tears in the tracheobronchial tree, leading to serious complications like pneumothorax, hemothorax, or tracheobronchial rupture. In contrast, blunt trauma can also damage the tracheobronchial area, but it typically does so indirectly. Forces from blunt trauma can lead to contusions, fractures of surrounding structures, or pressure injuries, which may not be as direct as those caused by penetrating mechanisms. Thermal injury primarily affects the mucosal lining and surrounding tissues due to heat exposure, and drowning results in hypoxia and pulmonary complications, but it does not involve a direct traumatic injury to the tracheobronchial structures in the same way. Thus, penetrating trauma is the mechanism that poses the greatest risk for immediate and direct injury to the tracheobronchial area.

9. Which component is part of the simple triage and rapid treatment (START) method?

A. Respiration

B. Pulse

C. Mental status

D. All of the above

The START (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment) method is a widely used system for quickly assessing and prioritizing casualties in emergency situations. This method allows first responders to determine the immediacy of a patient's needs based on their respiratory status, circulatory status (which includes pulse), and mental status. These three components are crucial as they help categorize victims into different triage levels such as immediate (red tag), delayed (yellow tag), or minor (green tag). Respiration is assessed by observing whether the patient is breathing and the adequacy of their breathing. If a patient is not breathing, the rescuer may attempt to reposition the airway or provide rescue breathing. If the patient starts breathing again, they are classified as immediate. Pulse is an important indicator of circulatory status. A rapid pulse may indicate shock, necessitating immediate attention. If a pulse is absent, the patient is categorized in the immediate group if lifesaving interventions can be applied. Mental status is evaluated through responsiveness to verbal stimuli or simple commands. A patient who cannot respond may be considered in critical condition and therefore categorized as immediate if they do not indicate any ability to follow directions. The inclusion of all three components—respiration, pulse, and mental status—in the START method ensures

SAMPLE

10. Buprenorphine is most likely considered to:

A. Reduce the risk of opioid withdrawal

B. Sedate patients with increased intracranial pressure

C. Elevate blood pressure in coagulopathies

D. Alter bleeding patterns

Buprenorphine is classified as a partial opioid agonist and is primarily used in the management of opioid addiction and for pain relief. One of its significant features is its ability to bind to the same receptors in the brain as other opioids, which allows it to alleviate withdrawal symptoms in individuals who are dependent on opioids. This makes buprenorphine particularly effective in reducing the risk of opioid withdrawal when patients are transitioning from more potent opioids or in a rehabilitation setting. In contrast to the other options, which do not accurately reflect the primary uses or effects of buprenorphine: it does not sedate patients with increased intracranial pressure due to its nature of partial agonism and lower sedative properties compared to full agonists. Furthermore, it doesn't elevate blood pressure in coagulopathies or alter bleeding patterns, as its mechanisms of action do not directly influence clotting or vascular pressure. This makes the correct option a strong reflection of buprenorphine's therapeutic role in managing opioid dependence and preventing withdrawal symptoms.

SAMPLE

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://tcrn.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE