



NAPLEX®

Competency Statements and Sample Questions

Competency Statements

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®) Competency Statements provide a blueprint of the topics covered on the examination. They offer important information about the knowledge, judgment, and skills you are expected to demonstrate as an entry-level pharmacist. A strong understanding of the Competency Statements will aid in your preparation to take the examination.

Area 1 Ensure Safe and Effective Pharmacotherapy and Health Outcomes (Approximately 67% of Test)

- 1.1.0 Obtain, Interpret, Assess, and/or Evaluate:
 - 1.1.1 Information from patient interviews
 - 1.1.2 Patient medical records
 - 1.1.3 Results from instruments and screening strategies used to assess patients
 - 1.1.4 Laboratory and diagnostic findings
 - 1.1.5 Signs and symptoms associated with diseases and medical conditions
 - 1.1.6 Patients' need for medical referral
 - 1.1.7 Risk factors relevant to the prevention of a disease or medical condition and the maintenance of wellness
 - 1.1.8 Information from interdisciplinary health care providers
- 1.2.0 Develop and Implement Individualized Treatment Plans, Taking Into Consideration:
 - 1.2.1 Specific uses and indications and dosing for drugs
 - 1.2.2 Purported uses and indications for dietary supplements and complementary and alternative medicine
 - 1.2.3 Lifestyle and self-care therapy
 - 1.2.4 Pharmacologic classes and characteristics of drugs
 - 1.2.5 Actions and mechanisms of actions of drugs
 - 1.2.6 The presence of pharmacotherapeutic duplications and/or omissions
 - 1.2.7 Drug interactions
 - 1.2.8 Contraindications, warnings, and precautions
 - 1.2.9 Allergies
 - 1.2.10 Adverse effects and drug-induced illness
 - 1.2.11 Pharmacodynamic, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacogenomic principles
 - 1.2.12 Pharmacokinetic data to determine equivalence among drug products
 - 1.2.13 Pharmacoeconomic factors
 - 1.2.14 Routes and methods of administration, dosage forms, and delivery systems

- 1.3.0 Assess and Modify Individualized Treatment Plans, Considering:
 - 1.3.1 Therapeutic goals and outcomes
 - 1.3.2 Safety of therapy
 - 1.3.3 Efficacy of therapy
 - 1.3.4 Medication non-adherence or misuse
- 1.4.0 Techniques for Effective Communication/Documentation of the Development, Implementation, and Assessment of Individualized Treatment Plans to:
 - 1.4.1 Patients and/or patients' agents
 - 1.4.2 Interdisciplinary health care providers
- 1.5.0 Advocate Individual and Population-Based Health and Safety, Considering:
 - 1.5.1 Best practices, scientific literature evaluation, and health-related resources
 - 1.5.2 Quality improvement strategies in medication-use systems
 - 1.5.3 Processes, evaluation of, and responses regarding medication errors
 - 1.5.4 Role of automated systems and technology in medication distribution processes
 - 1.5.5 Emergency preparedness protocols

Area 2 Safe and Accurate Preparation, Compounding, Dispensing, and Administration of Medications and Provision of Health Care Products (Approximately 33% of Test)

- 2.1.0 Employ Various Techniques to Calculate:
 - 2.1.1 Patients' nutritional needs and the content of nutrient sources
 - 2.1.2 Drug concentrations, ratio strengths, and/or extent of ionization
 - 2.1.3 Quantities of medication to be compounded, dispensed, or administered
 - 2.1.4 Quantities of ingredients needed to compound preparations
 - 2.1.5 Rates of administration
- 2.2.0 Compound Sterile and Nonsterile Products, Considering:
 - 2.2.1 Techniques, procedures, and equipment for drug preparation, compounding, and administration of sterile products
 - 2.2.2 Techniques, procedures, and equipment for drug preparation, compounding, and administration of nonsterile products
 - 2.2.3 Physicochemical properties of active and inactive ingredients
 - 2.2.4 Identifying the presence of, and the cause of, product incompatibilities or degradation and methods for achieving stability
 - 2.2.5 Physicochemical properties of drugs that affect solubility and stability
- 2.3.0 Review, Dispense, and Administer Drugs and Drug Products, Considering:
 - 2.3.1 Packaging, labeling, storage, handling, and disposal of medications
 - 2.3.2 Commercial availability, identification, and ingredients of prescription and non-prescription drugs
 - 2.3.3 Physical attributes of drug products
 - 2.3.4 Specific instructions and techniques for administration

Sample Questions

The following are examples of question types that examinees may encounter when taking the NAPLEX. These questions are presented as examples to familiarize examinees with their formats and are not intended to represent content areas on the NAPLEX. Every examinee is presented with the opportunity to take a tutorial at the testing

center prior to initiating the NAPLEX. The tutorial instructs examinees on how to respond to all of the types of questions that could be presented on the examination. NABP strongly encourages each examinee to take the tutorial in order to become familiar with how to submit responses in the computer-based examination.

Multiple-Choice Question Format

Which of the following vaccines is contraindicated in immunocompromised patients?

- A. Pneumococcal polysaccharide
- B. Varicella
- C. Meningococcal conjugate
- D. Subcutaneous influenza

Multiple-Response Question Format

What counseling information should a pharmacist provide to a patient taking oral tacrolimus?

(Select ALL that apply.)

- A. Avoid live virus vaccinations
- B. Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice
- C. If a dose is missed, double up on the next dose
- D. Do not drink alcohol while taking this medication
- E. Medication levels need to be monitored

Constructed-Response Question Format

Griseofulvin oral suspension contains 125 mg/5 mL. A physician prescribed 250 mg bid for 2 weeks for a patient. How many milliliters of griseofulvin should be dispensed in order to fill this prescription?

(Answer must be numeric; round the final answer to the nearest WHOLE number.)

Ordered-Response Question Format

Rank the following topical corticosteroids from highest to lowest potency. (ALL options must be used.)

Left-click the mouse to highlight, drag, and order the answer options.

Unordered Options

Ordered Response

Fluocinonide 0.05%

Hydrocortisone acetate 1%

Halobetasol propionate 0.05%

Mometasone furoate 0.1%

Hot Spot Question Format

Using the diagram below, identify where in the HIV life-cycle maraviroc exerts its mechanism of action. (Select the text response, and left-click the mouse. To change your answer, move the cursor, select alternate text response, and click.)

