



# Medical Assistant

Free Practice Test — 30 Real Exam-Style Questions

with full answer key & explanations

**Unlock the full bank of 1179 questions  
+ unlimited timed mock exams + mistake book**

Practice on the web: <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>  
\$2.99 / week · \$6.99 / month · cancel anytime

What you unlock: all 1179 questions • unlimited timed mock exams • mistake book •  
instant explanations

Also on iOS & Android — and watch the full Q&A walkthrough on [YouTube](#)  
[@CertsQuizPrep](#)



**Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams**  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>  
\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



## Practice Questions

Try all 30 first, then check the answer key at the back.

Want the other 1149+ questions & full timed mock exams? Unlock at  
<https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

**1. A medical assistant is preparing to collect a mid-stream clean-catch urine specimen from a female patient. After the patient cleanses the perineal area, which of the following instructions is correct?**

- A. Collect the last portion of the urine stream into the cup to reduce contamination
- B. Hold the labia together while voiding to direct the stream into the cup
- C. Begin voiding immediately into the collection cup from the start of urination
- D. Void a small amount into the toilet, then collect the mid-stream portion in the cup, then finish voiding into the toilet

**2. Of the following structures, which would be located in the mediastinum?**

- A. Occipital lobe
- B. Aorta
- C. Left carotid artery
- D. Pancreas

**3. During auscultation of blood pressure, the medical assistant hears the first Korotkoff sound at 128 mmHg and the sounds completely disappear at 76 mmHg. However, there is a silent gap (auscultatory gap) between 110 and 90 mmHg. If only the disappearance of sound is used without recognizing the gap, what erroneous reading would be documented?**

- A. 90/76 mmHg — systolic is falsely low because the gap was mistaken for silence
- B. 128/76 mmHg — the correct reading
- C. 128/110 mmHg — systolic is correct but diastolic is falsely high
- D. 110/76 mmHg — systolic is falsely low because sounds resumed at 90 and the gap went unnoticed

Also on iOS & Android — and watch the full Q&A walkthrough on [YouTube](#)  
[@CertsQuizPrep](#)



Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



**4. The point at which an impulse is transmitted from one neuron to another is:**

- A. Nerve center
- B. Synapse
- C. Dendrite
- D. Terminal plate

**5. Which of the following pulse sites is most commonly used for routine vital sign measurement in an adult patient?**

- A. Popliteal
- B. Radial
- C. Dorsalis pedis
- D. Brachial

**6. Which of the following terms is spelled incorrectly?**

- A. Bacterial
- B. Bacteriology
- C. Bacteriocidal
- D. Bacterium

Want the other 1149+ questions & full timed mock exams? Unlock at  
<https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

**7. A patient scheduled for a fasting lipid panel arrives and reports eating a handful of crackers two hours ago. What is the most appropriate action by the medical assistant?**

- A. Draw the specimen immediately because crackers are a low-fat food and will not affect results
- B. Ask the patient to drink two large glasses of water to dilute the lipids before drawing
- C. Notify the provider and reschedule the draw so the patient can complete the full required fast
- D. Draw the specimen and note on the requisition that the patient fasted for 2 hours

**8. In a human, urine flows through the urinary system in which order?**

- A. Bladder, urethra, kidney, urethral meatus, ureter
- B. Bladder, kidney, ureter, urethra, urethral meatus
- C. Kidney, ureter, bladder, urethra, urethral meatus
- D. Urethra, bladder, ureter, kidney, urethral meatus



**Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams**  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



**9. When preparing a patient for a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG), the medical assistant notices the patient is wearing a transdermal nitroglycerin patch on the left chest. What is the correct action?**

- A. Remove the patch, cleanse the skin, and place the electrode on clean skin, then notify the provider
- B. Skip V4 and place all remaining electrodes in their standard positions
- C. Move only the affected electrode two centimeters lateral to avoid the patch without informing the provider
- D. Place the chest electrode directly over the patch because it is thin enough not to affect the tracing

Also on iOS & Android — and watch the full Q&A walkthrough on [YouTube](#)  
[@CertsQuizPrep](#)

**10. Which bone is found superior to the patella and inferior to the ischium?**

- A. Calcaneus
- B. Femur
- C. Ulna
- D. Tibia

**11. Which of the following oxygen saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>) values would be considered within normal limits for a healthy adult at rest breathing room air?**

- A. 97%
- B. 94%
- C. 88%
- D. 91%

**12. Which abdominal region lies just distal to the sternum?**

- A. Epigastric
- B. Umbilical
- C. Lumbar
- D. Hypogastric

Want the other 1149+ questions & full timed mock exams? Unlock at  
<https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>



Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



**13. A medical assistant accidentally sustains a needlestick from a used needle after drawing blood from a patient with unknown HIV status. After washing the wound, what is the NEXT immediate step per standard post-exposure protocol?**

- A. Wait 72 hours for the patient's HIV test results before taking any further action
- B. Report the exposure to the supervisor/employer and seek evaluation for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) without delay
- C. Self-administer an over-the-counter antiretroviral from the office supply cabinet
- D. Document the incident in the patient's chart and complete an OSHA 300 log entry before leaving the building

**14. Blood flows from the heart's right ventricle into the:**

- A. Left ventricle
- B. Right atrium
- C. Pulmonary artery
- D. Pulmonary vein

**15. A provider orders a wound culture from an infected laceration. The medical assistant should collect the specimen by swabbing which area of the wound to obtain the most clinically meaningful sample?**

- A. The skin immediately surrounding the wound margin
- B. Any area of the wound that appears darkest in color
- C. The center of the wound after removing surface debris and gently rotating the swab against viable tissue
- D. The outer edges of the wound where dried exudate is most visible

Also on iOS & Android — and watch the full Q&A walkthrough on [YouTube](#)  
[@CertsQuizPrep](#)

**16. Which of the following terms is spelled correctly?**

- A. Gastrointestinel
- B. Gastrointestinal
- C. Gastrointestinol
- D. Gastrointestinul



**Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams**  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>  
\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



**17. Which patient position is most appropriate when preparing a patient for a routine gynecological pelvic examination?**

- A. Prone
- B. Lithotomy
- C. Trendelenburg
- D. Sims

**18. Gas exchange in the lungs occurs in one-celled air sacs called:**

- A. Alveoli
- B. Bronchi
- C. Capillaries
- D. Pleurae

**Want the other 1149+ questions & full timed mock exams? Unlock at**  
<https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

**19. A medical assistant is performing a capillary blood glucose test using a glucometer. The control solution result falls outside the acceptable range printed on the test strip vial. What is the correct course of action?**

- A. Proceed with patient testing because the control solution is only a guideline
- B. Adjust the glucometer's calibration setting to bring the control result within range
- C. Test another control solution from a different vial; if it also fails, take the glucometer out of service and notify the supervisor before testing any patients
- D. Discard only the current batch of test strips and test the patient immediately with a new strip

**20. If a patient has rhinorrhea as a symptom, this means which of the following?**

- A. Mucus discharge from the nose
- B. Excessive tearing from the eyes
- C. Excessive drooling
- D. Excessive fluid in the ear

**21. During a pediatric well-child visit, the medical assistant needs to measure the rectal temperature of a 4-month-old infant. Which thermometer lubricant and insertion depth are correct?**

- A. Petroleum jelly; insert 0.5 inch (1.25 cm)
- B. Water-soluble lubricant; insert 0.5 inch (1.25 cm)
- C. Water-soluble lubricant; insert 1 inch (2.5 cm)
- D. Petroleum jelly; insert 1 inch (2.5 cm)



**Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams**  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



Also on iOS & Android — and watch the full Q&A walkthrough on [YouTube](#)  
[@CertsQuizPrep](#)

**22. What is adipose tissue in the body?**

- A. The outer layer of the skin
- B. The whites of the eye
- C. The sac around the heart
- D. The fatty tissue in the body

**23. Surgical asepsis differs from medical asepsis primarily in that surgical asepsis requires:**

- A. Use of N95 respirators instead of surgical masks for all procedures
- B. Destruction of all microorganisms including spores on objects that enter sterile body cavities
- C. Handwashing with plain soap for at least 15 seconds before any patient contact
- D. Changing gloves between each patient without requiring sterile technique

**24. Which of the following would be indicated if a patient came in with arthralgia?**

- A. Trouble swallowing
- B. Joint pain
- C. Inflammation to a sweat gland
- D. A headache

Want the other 1149+ questions & full timed mock exams? Unlock at  
<https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

**25. A patient reports that she is allergic to latex. The medical assistant should take which of the following actions FIRST before beginning any clinical procedure?**

- A. Document the allergy in the chart and proceed using standard latex gloves, watching for a reaction
- B. Administer an antihistamine from the medication cabinet as a precaution
- C. Ask the patient to sign a waiver accepting responsibility for any allergic reaction
- D. Alert all clinical staff and ensure latex-free supplies are in place before the patient enters the clinical area



Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



**26. Which of the following would be considered a part of the large intestine?**

- A. Ileum
- B. Transverse colon
- C. Duodenum
- D. Jejunum

**27. When measuring a patient's respiratory rate, the medical assistant should count respirations for which minimum time interval to ensure accuracy?**

- A. 20 seconds, then multiply by 3
- B. 15 seconds, then multiply by 4
- C. 30 seconds, then multiply by 2
- D. 60 seconds without multiplication

Also on iOS & Android — and watch the full Q&A walkthrough on [YouTube](#)  
[@CertsQuizPrep](#)

**28. Adipose tissue is made of:**

- A. Fat cells
- B. Lymph nodes
- C. Muscles
- D. Skin

**29. A medical assistant is setting up a sterile field for a minor surgical procedure. While reaching across the sterile field to place an instrument, the MA's sleeve briefly contacts the outer 1-inch border of the sterile drape. Which statement is correct?**

- A. The field remains sterile because the 1-inch border is already considered non-sterile
- B. Only the instrument is contaminated; the rest of the field remains sterile
- C. The field is compromised only if a visible soil mark is present on the drape
- D. The entire sterile field is now contaminated and must be broken down and re-established

**30. The prefix brady (as in bradycardia) means:**

- A. Fast
- B. Irregular
- C. Slow
- D. Without



Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>  
\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start



## Answer Key & Explanations

You just practised 30 of 1179. Unlock every question + timed mocks at  
<https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

**1. D — Void a small amount into the toilet, then collect the mid-stream portion in the cup, then finish voiding into the toilet**

A mid-stream clean-catch specimen requires discarding the initial urine stream to flush urethral contaminants, then collecting the midstream portion, which reduces the risk of specimen contamination with periurethral flora.

**2. B — Aorta**

The mediastinum is the central area of the thoracic cavity, including the heart and aorta.

**3. A — 90/76 mmHg — systolic is falsely low because the gap was mistaken for silence**

An auscultatory gap is a period of silence in the middle of Korotkoff sounds; if the cuff is not inflated high enough to pass above the true systolic pressure, the MA may begin listening after the gap, mistaking the resumption of sounds at 90 mmHg for the systolic pressure, yielding a falsely low systolic reading.

**4. B — Synapse**

The synapse is the small gap between neurons where impulses are transmitted.

**5. B — Radial**

The radial artery at the wrist is the standard site for routine adult pulse measurement because it is superficial, easily palpable, and accessible without disturbing the patient.

**6. B — Bacteriology**

Bacteriology is spelled incorrectly; it should be bacteriology.

**7. C — Notify the provider and reschedule the draw so the patient can complete the full required fast**

A standard fasting lipid panel requires 9–12 hours of fasting; any food intake invalidates the fast, so the appropriate action is to inform the provider and reschedule rather than draw an invalid specimen.

**8. C — Kidney, ureter, bladder, urethra, urethral meatus**

Urine is formed in the kidneys, travels through the ureters to the bladder, then out via the urethra.

**9. A — Remove the patch, cleanse the skin, and place the electrode on clean skin, then notify the provider**

Transdermal patches must be removed before electrode placement because they interfere with electrical conduction and adhesion; the provider must be notified because removing a medicated patch requires clinical awareness.

**10. B — Femur**

The femur is the upper leg long bone, superior to the patella and inferior to the ischium.

**11. A — 97%**

Normal SpO<sub>2</sub> for a healthy adult at rest is 95–100%; a reading of 97% falls squarely within the normal range, while values below 95% warrant clinical evaluation.



Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams

→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start

Unofficial study material · not affiliated with any certifying body



**12. A — Epigastric**

The epigastric region is distal to the sternum.

**13. B — Report the exposure to the supervisor/employer and seek evaluation for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) without delay**

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standards and CDC guidelines require immediate reporting to the employer and prompt medical evaluation for PEP, ideally within 2 hours of exposure, because PEP efficacy decreases significantly with delay beyond 72 hours.

**14. C — Pulmonary artery**

Blood flows from the right ventricle to the pulmonary artery, the only artery carrying deoxygenated blood.

**15. C — The center of the wound after removing surface debris and gently rotating the swab against viable tissue**

A wound culture is most accurate when collected from viable, clean wound tissue after removing surface debris, because surface exudate often contains colonizing organisms that do not reflect the true infectious pathogen.

**16. B — Gastrointestinal**

Gastrointestinal is the correct spelling.

**17. B — Lithotomy**

The lithotomy position, in which the patient lies supine with hips and knees flexed and feet supported in stirrups, provides optimal visualization and access for pelvic and gynecological examinations.

**18. A — Alveoli**

The alveoli are one-celled air sacs in the lungs where air exchange takes place.

**19. C — Test another control solution from a different vial; if it also fails, take the glucometer out of service and notify the supervisor before testing any patients**

Quality control guidelines for point-of-care testing require that a failed QC result triggers troubleshooting (new control, new strip lot, different device), and the instrument must be removed from patient use until the problem is identified and resolved to ensure result accuracy.

**20. A — Mucus discharge from the nose**

Rhino- refers to the nose and -rrhea means flow or discharge; rhinorrhea is a runny nose.

**21. B — Water-soluble lubricant; insert 0.5 inch (1.25 cm)**

For rectal temperature in infants, a water-soluble lubricant is used to prevent tissue damage, and the thermometer is inserted no more than 0.5 inch (1.25 cm) in infants to avoid rectal perforation.

**22. D — The fatty tissue in the body**

Adipose tissue is where fat cells are stored.

**23. B — Destruction of all microorganisms including spores on objects that enter sterile body cavities**

Surgical asepsis (sterile technique) eliminates all microorganisms, including bacterial spores, from instruments and fields that contact sterile tissues or body cavities, whereas medical asepsis (clean technique) only reduces the number of pathogens and does not require spore elimination.



Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams

→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start

Unofficial study material · not affiliated with any certifying body



**24. B — Joint pain**

Arthro- refers to a joint and -algia indicates pain.

**25. D — Alert all clinical staff and ensure latex-free supplies are in place before the patient enters the clinical area**

Latex allergy can cause anaphylaxis; the first action is to communicate the allergy to all staff and ensure a latex-free environment — including gloves, tubing, and tourniquets — before any clinical contact with the patient.

**26. B — Transverse colon**

The transverse colon is part of the large intestine.

**27. C — 30 seconds, then multiply by 2**

Standard practice is to count respirations for a full 30 seconds and multiply by 2 (or 60 seconds for irregular breathing), as shorter intervals increase measurement error especially when the rate is irregular.

**28. A — Fat cells**

Adipose tissue is made up of fat cells called adipocytes.

**29. A — The field remains sterile because the 1-inch border is already considered non-sterile**

By convention, the outermost 1-inch border of a sterile drape is considered non-sterile and serves as a margin of safety; contact limited strictly to that border does not contaminate the remainder of the sterile field.

**30. C — Slow**

The prefix brady- means slow.



**Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams**  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start

Unofficial study material · not affiliated with any certifying body



# Ready to pass?

Unlock the full Medical Assistant bank, every explanation, and unlimited timed mock exams.

**Scan to start practising**

<https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

Watch the full video walkthrough on YouTube @CertsQuizPrep



**Unlock all 1179 questions + timed mock exams**  
→ <https://certs.theorypractice.app/medical-assistant>

\$2.99/week or \$6.99/month · cancel anytime · scan to start