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## Practice Questions

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**1. If skin comes in contact with chemotherapy drugs, what should a pharmacy technician do first?**

- A. Report the incident to the Risk Manager.
- B. Call 911
- C. Complete an incident report.
- D. Wash the area with soap and water.

**2. Which part of the ear is coiled and comprises three canals filled with fluid?**

- A. vestibule
- B. utricle
- C. semicircular canals
- D. cochlea

**3. Which of the following DEA forms is needed when destroying outdated or damaged controlled substances?**

- A. DEA Form 106
- B. DEA Form 224
- C. DEA Form 222
- D. DEA Form 41

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**4. All of the following sections are components of a neuron EXCEPT:**

- A. cell body
- B. nerve terminal
- C. dehydrator
- D. axon



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5. When conducting a check of expired drugs in the tablet/capsule section you find that the pharmacy had dispensed a medication that has expired. This is an example of what type of medication error?

- A. wrong drug preparation error
- B. omission error
- C. deteriorated drug error
- D. improper dose error

6. The ISMP and the Vermont Oxford Network are working to standardize infusion for the `<code>_____</code>` patient to reduce the medication error risk when critically ill patients are transferred from one facility to another.

- A. Neonate
- B. Elderly
- C. Pediatric
- D. Child

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7. `<code>_____</code>` can contribute to a medication error. Therefore, it is important for pharmacy technicians to know generic and brand names very well.

- A. Illegible handwriting
- B. Look-alike drug names
- C. All of the above
- D. Both a and b only

8. Which of the following best describes the process of counting Schedule II medications for the biennial controlled substance inventory?

- A. All medication quantities can be estimated
- B. Only medications with a package size less than 1000 units must be counted by hand
- C. All medications need to be counted by hand
- D. Only medications with a package size greater than 1000 units must be counted by hand

9. Which of the following medications does not need to be counted by hand during the biennial controlled substance inventory (consider all package sizes <1000 units)?

- A. Lorazepam
- B. Morphine
- C. Concerta
- D. Hydromorphone



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**10. Of the tasks listed below, which one can only be performed by the pharmacist?**

- A. compounding a prescription product
- B. maintaining medication inventory
- C. entering new prescriptions into the computer
- D. transferring a prescription via an unshared network

**11. Which of the following is NOT true regarding the use of electronic prescription records for controlled substances?**

- A. The pharmacy must be able to digitally sign and archive the controlled substance prescription.
- B. Electronic controlled substance records must be either easily readable, or able to be rendered into a format that any person can read.
- C. All electronic records must be maintained for at least three years.
- D. The electronic controlled substance record system must be audited or certified by a qualified third party.

**12. Which of the following controlled medications may be destroyed by a pharmacy with blanket authorization from the DEA to destroy controlled substances?**

- A. Controlled medication returned to the pharmacy due to a patient passing away
- B. Outdated controlled medications
- C. All of the above
- D. Remaining controlled medication from a partially used ampule

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**13. Pharmacy technicians can refer to the `_____` Book to find out if two drugs are equivalent.**

- A. Blue
- B. Green
- C. Orange
- D. White



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**14. When considering a medication for inclusion on a preferred drug list, the committee takes all of the following into consideration EXCEPT:**

- A. Drug safety
- B. Drug efficacy
- C. Cost
- D. Ease of pronunciation

**15. All of the following are situations that may require therapeutic drug monitoring, EXCEPT:**

- A. the healthcare provider suspects interaction of the drug with other drugs
- B. the healthcare provider is unsure if the patient is taking the medication as prescribed
- C. the patient is experiencing no adverse effects from the medication
- D. the patient needs to be slowly weaned off of a medication

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**16. To reconstitute amoxicillin oral suspension, tap the bottle until the \_\_\_\_\_ flows freely. Add approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total amount of \_\_\_\_\_ for reconstitution and shake vigorously. Add remainder of the \_\_\_\_\_ and again shake vigorously.**

- A. powder; ethyl alcohol; powder
- B. ethyl alcohol; powder; powder
- C. powder; water; water
- D. water; powder; powder

**17. Which of the following over-the-counter (OTC) medications is classified as an antihistamine?**

- A. Dextromethorphan
- B. Pseudoephedrine
- C. Guaifenesin
- D. Loratadine

**18. Which of the tasks listed below is NOT a responsibility of a pharmacy technician?**

- A. verifying drug deliveries
- B. maintaining inventory records
- C. ordering drugs
- D. dispensing advice



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**19. Among the options provided, which one is not categorized as a delayed-release dosage form?**

- A. Repository
- B. Time release
- C. Controlled release
- D. Sublingual tablet

**20. Dr. Bobillo unintentionally neglected to mention the specific dosage of amoxicillin he prefers for his patient's infection. What action would you take in this situation?**

- A. Guess which strength he meant based on the directions.
- B. None of the above
- C. Ask the pharmacist to call the doctor to see which strength he wanted.
- D. Send the patient away; there's nothing you can do.

**21. Which system of measurement was once used in the practice of pharmacy to measure both volume and weight?**

- A. household system
- B. metric system
- C. avoirdupois system
- D. apothecary system

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**22. How much active ingredient is present in a tablespoon of amoxicillin 250mg/5ml suspension?**

- A. 750mg
- B. 250mg
- C. 1000mg
- D. 500mg

**23. What does the third segment of numbers in the National Drug Code represent?**

- A. Labeler code
- B. Formulation code
- C. Distributor code
- D. Package code



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**24. Which of the following is a solution administered rectally for the purposes of drug administration or cleansing?**

- A. Inhaler
- B. Elixir
- C. Suppository
- D. Enema

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**25. How can you verify that a patient has coverage with an insurance company?**

- A. All of the above
- B. Try to bill the insurance company for a prescription the patient wants to have filled
- C. Call the company to verify coverage
- D. Check on the insurance company's website to verify coverage, if they have one available for this purpose

**26. As a compounding pharmacy technician, you have to mix two ingredients of unequal quantities together beginning with the smallest quantity. <br/><br/>Which technique should you use?**

- A. Blending
- B. Geometric dilution
- C. Trituration
- D. Admixture

**27. Why do insurance companies require prior authorizations for certain medications?**

- A. To ensure patients are treated with the most cost effective treatment option
- B. To irritate the doctor's office staff
- C. To increase the cost the patient must pay out of pocket
- D. To prevent the patient from getting the medication they need

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**28. Even if you confirm you are using the right medication and dosage from your stock bottle, what other information should you check before filling the prescription?**

- A. Price
- B. Pill Color
- C. Expiration
- D. Manufacturer

**29. An echocardiogram utilizes which of the following?**

- A. Ultraviolet light
- B. Sound waves
- C. Light rays
- D. Radiation waves

**30. The regulatory agency responsible for the potential issuance of a drug recall is:**

- A. BOP
- B. TJC
- C. FDA
- D. DEA



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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**1. D — Wash the area with soap and water.**

Immediately wash the exposed area with soap and water if skin comes in contact with chemotherapy drugs during preparation.

**2. D — cochlea**

The cochlea is a coiled area of the ear consisting of three fluid-filled canals. The small hair-like structures located here are connected to the acoustic nerve, which transmits impulses to the brain.

**3. D — DEA Form 41**

DEA Form 41 is used for destruction of controlled substances. DEA Form 106 (choice B) must be completed in the event of a theft or loss of controlled substances. DEA Form 222 (choice C) is used to order Schedule II controlled substances, and a DEA Form 224 (choice D) is used for initial registration with the DEA.

**4. C — dehydrator**

This is not one of the primary components of a neuron. The four main parts are the cell body, dendrites, axon, and the nerve terminal. Neurons are the smallest functional unit of the nervous system.

**5. C — deteriorated drug error**

Deteriorated drug error is administration of a drug that has expired or for which the physical or chemical dosage form integrity has been compromised. Omission error is failure to administer an ordered dose to a patient before the next scheduled dose. Improper error is administration to the patient of a dose that is greater than or less than order. Wrong drug preparation error is a drug product incorrectly formulated or manipulated before administration.

**6. A — Neonate**

ISMP and VON are working to standardize concentration for typical neonatal infusions in an effort to provide the demand necessary for manufacturers to offer commercially prepared standard solution.

**7. C — All of the above**

The correct answer is "All of the above" because each of the options contribute to medication errors, a common cause of death among patients in the United States.

**8. C — All medications need to be counted by hand**

For the biennial Schedule II controlled substance inventory, all medications need to be counted by hand. All Schedule II medications must be physically counted, by hand for every biennial inventory. Estimating the quantities of these medications is not permitted. All Schedule II medications in the pharmacy must be physically counted, including those awaiting disposal.

**9. A — Lorazepam**

Lorazepam, a schedule IV controlled substance, does not need to be counted by hand for the biennial controlled substance inventory, if the package size is less than 1000 tablets. If the package size was greater than 1000 tablets and the package was open, then it would need to be counted by hand. The other



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medications are Schedule II controlled substances, and need to be counted by hand.

#### 10. D — transferring a prescription via an unshared network

Transferring a prescription via an unshared network is a task that can only be performed by the pharmacist. This involves securely transmitting prescription information from one pharmacy to another without sharing it on a shared network. This task requires the pharmacist to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the prescription data being transferred.

Incorrect answer analysis:

Option A) Compounding a prescription product. Compounding a prescription product is not a task that can only be performed by the pharmacist. While pharmacists are often involved in compounding medications, other healthcare professionals like pharmacy technicians may also be trained to perform this task under supervision.

Option B) Entering new prescriptions into the computer. Entering new prescriptions into the computer is not a task that can only be performed by the pharmacist. Pharmacy technicians and other authorized personnel are responsible for accurately entering prescription information into the computer system under the pharmacist's supervision.

Option C) Maintaining medication inventory. Maintaining medication inventory is not a task that can only be performed by the pharmacist. It is a responsibility shared by the entire pharmacy team, including pharmacy technicians and other staff members who assist in managing and tracking medication stock levels.

By analyzing the incorrect answer options, it is clear that only option D) transferring a prescription via an unshared network is a task that solely falls under the pharmacist's role and responsibility.

#### 11. C — All electronic records must be maintained for at least three years.

Records associated with electronic controlled substance prescriptions must be maintained for at least two years.

#### 12. C — All of the above

All of the above medications may be destroyed by a pharmacy with blanket authorization to destroy controlled substances. These medications must be destroyed using a method that results in leaving the medication in a state that it cannot be used. If a pharmacy technician is performing the destruction, they must have a pharmacist or nurse witness the action.

#### 13. C — Orange

The primary reference for therapeutic equivalence is the FDA's Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, commonly known as the Orange Book. It is the official source that provides standards, which dictate drug equivalence.

#### 14. D — Ease of pronunciation

When considering whether to include a specific drug for inclusion on a PDL, the committee examines drug safety, drug efficacy, and cost. However, the pronunciation of the medication's name has no bearing. A medication may be hard to say and still included because it is an effective medication at a reasonable cost!

#### 15. C — the patient is experiencing no adverse effects from the medication

In addition to certain types of drugs, certain scenarios increase the need for therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM), such as: the patient is taking a normal dose, but doesn't seem to have a therapeutic response. The healthcare provider is unsure if the patient is taking the medication like he/she ought. The patient is experiencing many adverse effects from the medication. The healthcare provider suspects interaction of the drug with other medications. The patient needs to be slowly weaned off of a medication.



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**16. C — powder; water; water**

Amoxicillin oral suspension comes as a powder for reconstitution. Water must be added in a two-step fashion, and the bottle must be shaken vigorously to ensure thorough, uniform mixing. Ethyl alcohol is not used to reconstitute oral suspensions.

**17. D — Loratadine**

Loratadine is an over-the-counter (OTC) medication that is classified as an antihistamine. Antihistamines are drugs that help to relieve allergy symptoms by blocking the action of histamine, a substance in the body that causes allergic reactions. Loratadine works by preventing histamine from binding to its receptors, thus reducing symptoms such as sneezing, itching, runny nose, and watery eyes.

Option A (Pseudoephedrine) is not classified as an antihistamine. Pseudoephedrine is a decongestant that helps to relieve nasal congestion by shrinking the blood vessels in the nasal passages. It does not have any direct effect on histamine or allergy symptoms.

Option C (Dextromethorphan) is not classified as an antihistamine either. Dextromethorphan is a cough suppressant that helps to alleviate coughing by acting on the cough center in the brain. It does not have any antihistamine properties.

Option D (Guaifenesin) is not an antihistamine medication. Guaifenesin is an expectorant that helps to thin and loosen mucus in the airways, making it easier to cough up. It is commonly used to relieve coughing associated with respiratory conditions, but it does not have any antihistamine effects.

**18. D — dispensing advice**

The job duties of a pharmacy technician encompass verifying drug deliveries, storing drugs, rotating stock, ordering drugs, and maintaining inventory records, among other tasks. However, pharmacy technicians are not authorized to counsel or provide medical information or advice to patients, as this falls under the purview of the pharmacist.

**19. D — Sublingual tablet**

A sublingual tablet is not categorized as a delayed-release dosage form because it is designed to dissolve under the tongue and be rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream. This bypasses the need for gastric absorption, allowing for quicker onset of action.

Option A (Controlled release): Controlled release dosage forms are designed to release the active ingredient slowly and steadily over an extended period of time. These formulations are commonly used to maintain consistent drug levels in the body and prolong the duration of therapeutic effect.

Option B (Repository): Repository dosage forms are designed to release the active ingredient gradually over time, typically from an implant or depot within the body. These formulations are often used for long-term drug delivery or to provide sustained release of a medication.

Option D (Time release): Time-release dosage forms are designed to release the active ingredient at specific intervals or time points, allowing for controlled drug delivery. These formulations are commonly used to provide sustained drug action and avoid frequent dosing.

In summary, while options A, B, and D are all categorized as delayed-release dosage forms, option C (sublingual tablet) is not.

**20. C — Ask the pharmacist to call the doctor to see which strength he wanted.**

If a doctor omits the strength of a medication on the prescription, the best course of action is to contact the doctor to confirm the intended strength, unless the drug is only available in one strength.

**21. D — apothecary system**

The apothecary system was once used in the practice of pharmacy to measure both volume and weight. This system originated in medieval Europe and was used until the mid-20th century. It was based on the use of various units and measurements, including drams, scruples, grains, fluid ounces, pints, and pounds.



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Pharmacists using the apothecary system had to be familiar with these measurements and be able to convert between them accurately.

**22. A — 750mg**

There is 750mg of active ingredient present in 1 tablespoon of amoxicillin 250mg/5ml suspension. Here's how the answer was reached:  
1 Tablespoon = 15ml  
There are 250mg in 5ml  
 $15/5 = 3$   
 $3 \times 250 = 750\text{mg}$ .

**23. D — Package code**

The third segment of the NDC is the package code. The package code is used to identify the package size and type.

**24. D — Enema**

Enemas are commonly prescribed to patients for help with evacuation of feces and cleansing. They are sometimes used with other medications to ensure evacuation prior to medical procedures.

**25. A — All of the above**

All of the above choices are options for verifying insurance coverage. The company can be contacted by phone or on their website, if they have one available. It is also possible to check coverage by billing a prescription to them, but this may only be done if the patient is filling a prescription, as billing the insurance company for false claims would be considered insurance fraud.

**26. B — Geometric dilution**

When two ingredients of unequal quantities are mixed together, beginning with the smallest quantity and adding an equal quantity of the larger amount until all ingredients are used, is the technique called geometric dilution. Trituration is when a solid substance is ground into fine particles. Combing of two substances is blending.

**27. A — To ensure patients are treated with the most cost effective treatment option**

Prior authorizations are required by insurance companies to ensure treatment occurs in a stepwise, cost-effective approach. Patients should try lesser expensive options before trying more expensive treatment options. This process decreases costs to the patients, and the healthcare system as a whole. If a patient has tried and failed the less expensive treatments, the doctor can request coverage for a more expensive option through the prior authorization process.

**28. C — Expiration**

Even if you have the correct medication to fill the prescription, you need to double check the expiration date. While you should use the oldest medication in stock first, never use expired medicine. It can be ineffective or dangerous.

**29. B — Sound waves**

An echocardiogram uses sound waves to create moving pictures of the heart.

**30. C — FDA**

The regulatory agency responsible for the potential issuance of a drug recall is the FDA (Food and Drug Administration). The FDA is a government agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and is responsible for protecting public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, cosmetics, and other products.  
Option A (BOP) is incorrect. BOP stands for Bureau of Prisons. The Bureau of Prisons is a federal agency under the



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Department of Justice responsible for the custody and care of federal inmates.<br/><br/>Option B (DEA) is incorrect. DEA stands for Drug Enforcement Administration. The DEA is a federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Justice responsible for combating the illegal drug trade and enforcing the controlled substances laws of the United States.<br/><br/>Option D (TJC) is incorrect. TJC stands for The Joint Commission. The Joint Commission is an independent, non-profit organization that accredits and certifies healthcare organizations in the United States. It focuses on patient safety and quality improvement in healthcare settings, but it is not responsible for drug recalls.<br/><br/>In summary, the correct regulatory agency responsible for the potential issuance of a drug recall is the FDA, while the wrong options (A, B, and D) do not have regulatory authority over drug recalls.



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