PTCE Mini-Test — 20 Practice Questions

Real PTCE-style questions from the Clinical Pass Lab question bank, covering all four 2026 domains: medications, patient safety, order entry, and federal requirements. Answer all 20 before opening the key at the back — the explanations are where the learning is.

1. Which pair below is the classic textbook example used to teach tall-man lettering?

A. Lisinopril / Lipitor
B. hydrALAZINE / hydrOXYzine
C. Metformin / Metronidazole
D. Prednisone / Prednisolone

2. A prescription sig reads: "Take i PO QID." What is the patient supposed to do?

A. Take one tablet by mouth four times a day
B. Take one tablet by injection four times a day
C. Take one tablet by mouth twice a day
D. Take one tablet under the tongue four times a day

3. A patient takes 2 tablets twice daily. The prescription is dispensed as 60 tablets. What is the days' supply?

A. 30 days
B. 15 days
C. 60 days
D. 7 days

4. An NDC (National Drug Code) number has how many segments, and what do they identify?

A. 2 segments: manufacturer and product
B. 3 segments: labeler, product, and package
C. 4 segments: labeler, product, package, and lot
D. 1 segment: product only

5. A medication must be stored at 77°F. What is that in Celsius?

A. 15°C
B. 20°C
C. 25°C
D. 30°C

6. Which schedule of controlled substances allows NO refills?

A. Schedule II

B. Schedule III

C. Schedule IV

D. Schedule V

7. A patient picking up a new prescription asks the pharmacy technician detailed questions about side effects. What should the technician do?

A. Answer from the drug's package insert

B. Refer the patient to the pharmacist

C. Look it up and explain it themselves

D. Tell the patient to call their doctor

8. Which auxiliary label belongs on a tetracycline prescription?

A. "Take with food"

B. "May cause drowsiness"

C. "Do not take with dairy products, antacids, or iron"

D. "Shake well before using"

9. Once opened and kept at room temperature, most insulin vials are good for how many days?

A. 7 days

B. 14 days

C. 28 days

D. 90 days

10. In the FDA's Orange Book, a generic drug rated "AB" means:

A. It is NOT therapeutically equivalent to the brand

B. It is therapeutically equivalent and can be substituted

C. It is still under patent

D. It is a biosimilar

11. An IV order is for 1,000 mL to infuse over 8 hours. What is the flow rate in mL/hour?

A. 100 mL/hr

B. 125 mL/hr

C. 150 mL/hr

D. 200 mL/hr

12. Serious adverse drug events are reported to the FDA through which program?

A. MedWatch

B. REMS

C. FAERS

D. The Orange Book

13. What is the generic name for Lipitor?

A. Atorvastatin

B. Simvastatin

C. Rosuvastatin

D. Pravastatin

14. Alprazolam (Xanax) is in which controlled-substance schedule?

A. Schedule II

B. Schedule III

C. Schedule IV

D. Schedule V

15. How many grams of active drug are in 500 mL of a 2% solution?

A. 2 g

B. 5 g

C. 10 g

D. 20 g

16. Which of these vaccines must be stored in the FREEZER, not the refrigerator?

A. Influenza (flu shot)

B. Hepatitis B

C. Varicella (chickenpox)

D. Tdap

17. Under HIPAA's "minimum necessary" rule, when staff use protected health information (PHI) for routine work, they should:

A. Use the patient's entire record so nothing is missed

B. Limit the information to only what is needed for that task

C. Get the patient's written authorization before every use

D. Share it freely inside the pharmacy because it is internal

18. Using Clark's rule, what is the dose for a 75-lb child if the adult dose is 200 mg? Clark's rule: (child's weight in lb ÷ 150 lb) × adult dose

A. 50 mg

B. 100 mg

C. 150 mg

D. 200 mg

19. A pharmacy cannot supply the full quantity of a Schedule II prescription. The pharmacist partially fills it. Within what time must the remaining quantity be supplied (regular retail patient)?

A. 24 hours

B. 72 hours

C. 7 days

D. 30 days

20. What is the generic name for Lasix?

A. Furosemide

B. Hydrochlorothiazide

C. Lisinopril

D. Metolazone

Answer Key — with explanations

1. B. hydrALAZINE / hydrOXYzine — hydrALAZINE (blood pressure) vs hydrOXYzine (anxiety/itching). Tall-man lettering capitalizes the parts of the names that differ so the eye catches the difference on labels and shelf tags. This pair is on the ISMP confused-drug-names list.

2. A. Take one tablet by mouth four times a day — i = one, PO (per os) = by mouth, QID = four times a day. Don't confuse QID (four times daily) with BID (twice daily) or QD (once daily) — that's the exam trap.

3. B. 15 days — 15 days. 2 tablets × 2 times daily = 4 tablets per day. 60 ÷ 4 = 15. The trap is multiplying instead of dividing, or forgetting the dose is twice daily.

4. B. 3 segments: labeler, product, and package — 3 segments: labeler code (who made it), product code (which drug/strength/form), package code (which package size). Common layouts are 5-4-2, 5-3-2, and 4-4-2. The NDC never includes the lot number — that's separate.

5. C. 25°C — 25°C. Formula: (77 − 32) × 5/9 = 25. Worth memorizing cold: 25°C / 77°F is "room temperature," and 2–8°C / 36–46°F is "refrigerated."

6. A. Schedule II — Schedule II prescriptions cannot be refilled, ever; each fill needs a brand-new prescription. C-III and C-IV allow up to 5 refills within 6 months. This is one of the most-tested law facts on the exam.

7. B. Refer the patient to the pharmacist — only the pharmacist may counsel patients. The tech's job is to spot the counseling moment and hand it off. Under OBRA '90, the offer to counsel on a new prescription is a federal requirement.

8. C. "Do not take with dairy products, antacids, or iron" — tetracycline binds (chelates) calcium, magnesium, aluminum, and iron, which tanks how much drug gets absorbed. Take it on an empty stomach, away from dairy, antacids, and iron supplements.

9. C. 28 days — 28 days at room temperature for most opened vials (a few brands differ, so check the label). Unopened vials stay good until the printed expiration date if kept refrigerated. Never freeze insulin.

10. B. It is therapeutically equivalent and can be substituted — AB means therapeutically equivalent: the generic can be substituted for the brand. The trap is FAERS — that's the FDA's database where adverse-event reports land, not the substitution reference.

11. B. 125 mL/hr — 1,000 ÷ 8 = 125 mL/hr. Divide total volume by total hours — the trap is dividing by minutes or flipping the fraction.

12. A. MedWatch — MedWatch (Form 3500) is the reporting channel for health professionals and patients. FAERS is the FDA's database where those MedWatch reports land — that's the exam trap. REMS is a risk-management program, not a reporting channel.

13. A. Atorvastatin — atorvastatin. The -statins are the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (cholesterol) family — ties back to the suffix drill in question #5.

14. C. Schedule IV — Schedule IV. All benzodiazepines are C-IV. The trap: don't lump every "strong" drug into C-II — opioids like oxycodone are C-II, benzos are C-IV.

15. C. 10 g — a 2% w/v solution means 2 g per 100 mL. 500 mL is five 100-mL units, so 5 × 2 g = 10 g. The trap is reading 2% as 2 g total, no matter the volume.

16. C. Varicella (chickenpox) — varicella vaccine is stored frozen (between -50°C and -15°C). The others live in the refrigerator — and freezing them can actually ruin them, which is the trap.

17. B. Limit the information to only what is needed for that task — minimum necessary means exactly that: see and use only the PHI the task requires, nothing more. Written authorization rules apply to specific outside disclosures, not routine internal work.

18. B. 100 mg — 75 ÷ 150 = 0.5, and 0.5 × 200 mg = 100 mg. The trap is forgetting the ÷ 150 step and scaling straight off the weight.

19. B. 72 hours — 72 hours. If the rest is not supplied in that window, the remainder is void and the prescriber must be notified. The 60-day window you may have heard of applies only to long-term-care and terminally ill patients — that's the exam trap.

20. A. Furosemide — Lasix is furosemide, a loop diuretic. The other three are also "water pill"-adjacent, which is the trap: hydrochlorothiazide and metolazone are thiazide-type diuretics, and lisinopril is an ACE inhibitor.

Want the full bank? The PTCE 2026 Complete Study Course carries 80 more practice questions with full explanations, plus the study plan, cheat sheets, and math drills.