

New Publications

PharmPrep: ASHP's NAPLEX Review, 4th Edition

By Lea S Eiland PharmD BCPS and Diane B Ginsburg MS RPh FASHP. Published by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, MD, 2011. ISBN 978-1-58528-255-5. Paperbound, xxxi + 403 pp. (27.5 × 21.5 cm), \$45. In online form also. www.ashp.org

Therapeutic Area: Pharmacotherapy of disease state management.

Format: In addition to the study guide, *PharmPrep* is available as an interactive online product that allows the student to review sample questions, disease states, and actual patient cases. Personalized practice exams, along with real-time grading and remediation recommendations, can be created to mimic the North American Pharmacy Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) test environment or ones that utilize an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) format.

Audience: The primary audience is pharmacy students preparing to take the NAPLEX computer adaptive test (CAT). Practicing pharmacists and other providers may also find the case-based format conducive for reviewing the contemporary pharmacotherapy of commonly encountered diseases.

Purpose: This book provides a case-based review of common diseases and contemporary pharmacotherapeutic management strategies using a testing format similar to the NAPLEX CAT. These real-world scenarios are likely to be encountered in today's practice environments.

Content: Patient cases are grouped under 22 major disease state sections. For example, the hypertension and stroke cases are listed under the Cardiac and Vascular Diseases section. The federal law review is written in descriptive form comprising 24 major headings, including common abbreviations, descriptions of various acts (including the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990), controlled substances laws, and privacy issues (eg, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Thirty multiple-choice questions follow the law review and their answers can be found in a separate section of the book. The compounding section of the book is divided into solid dosage forms, pharmaceutical liquids, topical delivery systems, suppositories, and parenteral delivery

systems. A synopsis of concepts and practical information (including study questions) is presented in the basic pharmaceutical calculations section.

Usability: The book is user friendly and all sections are easy to navigate, despite the lack of an appendix. The book is priced at an affordable \$45 per copy. ASHP members (including student members) can receive a \$5 price reduction.

Highlights: The book comprises 77 revised and/or new cases (under 22 major headings) taken from actual patient scenarios penned by leading experts. Cases are written in a standardized, easy-to-read format (eg, chief complaint, history of present illness, past medical history) along with the diagnosis, medication record, pharmacist notes, and/or other pertinent patient information. Ten multiple-choice questions follow each case. In a separate section, the correct answers to the questions (linked to a specific competency statement) are explained, along with a brief discussion of why the distracter answers are incorrect.

Limitations: A lack of reference citations makes it difficult to assess information currency. Whereas many common diseases are included as cases, there are some obvious oversights. For example, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and thyroid disorders have been overlooked.

Comparison with Previous Editions: Major revised sections include reviews of federal law, compounding, and pharmacy calculations. Minor sections include NAPLEX competency statements, medical abbreviations, and selected laboratory values. The Successful Test-Taking Strategies chapter also remains in this latest version of the book.

Comparison with Other Related Books or Products: Many educational tools including hard copy/online books, live/online review courses and even smartphone applications are available to those preparing to take the NAPLEX examination. Singling out one product or service as the major competition to *PharmPrep* is impractical. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy markets an online product called Pre-NAPLEX. The cost to take this 70-minute, 50-question version of the examination is \$50 per attempt (maximum of 2 attempts). Hence, individuals can now choose from a diverse product portfolio tailored to their individual learning needs and financial limitations.

Reviewer's Summary: *PharmPrep* provides an important resource for those preparing for the NAPLEX exam or wishing to refine their pharmacotherapeutic skills. Actual cases and their respective test items provide an opportunity to challenge one's clinical proficiencies concerning patient assessment and disease state management. Provision of disease states found on the exam along with a testing format similar to the exam are added benefits. Despite these positive attributes, shortcomings include a lack of reference citations and exclusion of some common diseases. However, given its overall functionality and modest yet competitive pricing, *PharmPrep* should be a welcome addition to the bookshelves of students and practitioners alike.

Reviewer: Charles D Ponte BSc PharmD DPNAP FAPhA FASHP FCCP, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Family Medicine, Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Conflict of interest: Author reported none

Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam Review, 3rd Edition

By Lorraine C Zentz CPhT PhD. Published by Delmar, Cengage Learning, Clifton Park, NY, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4283-2062-8. Paperbound, xx + 599 pp. (27.5 × 22 cm), \$70.99. www.cengage.com/delmar

Therapeutic Area: This text is a review tool for the pharmacy technician certification exam. Technicians and students in pharmacy technology training programs wishing to gain more knowledge in topics such as pharmacology and pharmaceutical mathematics may also use it.

Format: A CD-ROM accompanies the softcover text.

System Requirements: The CD-ROM included with the text requires Microsoft Windows (XP w/SP2 or Vista w/SP1, Windows 7), 500 MB of hard drive space, screen resolution of 1024 × 768 pixels, a sound card and listening device for audio features, and Flash Player 10.

Audience: The intended audience for this text is pharmacy technicians of varying experience levels. Students in pharmacy technician training programs may also find it useful.

Purpose: The author's stated purpose is to provide a review text for technicians familiar with the material and to also serve as a learning tool for students of pharmacy technology and for technicians who have minimal training in the pharmacy field.

Content: The text is divided into 3 major sections based on the content sections of the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and Institute for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians exams. Topics include filling the medication order, pharmaceutical calculations, pharmacology, pharmacy law, main-

taining medication and inventory control systems, and administration and management of pharmacy practice. Chapters begin with a section called "Quick Study," an outline for the topics covered in the chapter. "Notes" in the margin expand on important information in the text. Each chapter ends with review questions. In pharmacology chapters, "Physiology Reviews" assist students in understanding how drugs work or affect body systems.

Usability: The cost of this text seems slightly higher than similar texts but is not excessive considering the content included. Although the CD-ROM was not designed for use on Mac computers, I was able to install and use it successfully on my Mac using CrossOver software.

Highlights: One of the best features of the text is Appendix C, Pretest with Answers. The pretest is organized in the order of the book chapters, making it easy for users to go to the appropriate chapter to review material in areas where they score poorly. The Notes boxes highlight important points and provide understanding by answering the question, "Why?" The text and accompanying CD-ROM provide numerous practice questions and allow users to simulate the exam experience.

Limitations: I found the organization of the pharmacology chapters confusing. Information presented does not always appear in the order of the "Quick Study" outlines. The chapter on pulmonary agents discusses asthma, but not allergies. The table of contents for Chapter 26 lists only cephalosporin antibiotics, yet covers many others. Although Appendix B, Commonly Used Abbreviations, was updated to reflect currently accepted abbreviations, I noted several abbreviations on the list that are considered "Do Not Use" abbreviations by the Joint Commission and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices.

Comparison with Previous Edition: Revisions to previous editions include an updated and expanded pharmacology section, reformatting of the practice exam to match the current format of the PTCB exam, and updating of chapters to reflect current pharmacy practice standards and laws. A CD-ROM allowing the user to complete randomized practice exams now accompanies the text.

Reviewer's Summary: I believe that the author has achieved her goal of providing a review text useful to technicians and students at all levels of experience and training. Although I found the quality and depth of the information in the text appropriate to the purpose, organization and formatting of the information could be better, especially in the pharmacology section. I will include this text on the list of recommended review guides I distribute to students, highlighting the pretest and accompanying CD-ROM as strengths of the text.

Reviewer: Linda S Albrecht RPh MBA FASHP, Regional Director, Dallas/Fort Worth Internship Program,

The University of Texas College of Pharmacy, Austin, TX, and Instructor and Institutional Externship Coordinator, Pharmacy Technology, Richland College, Dallas, TX

Conflict of interest: Author reported none

BOOKS RECEIVED

Best Practices for Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy 2011-2012 Edition. Edited by Bruce Hawkins. Published by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, MD, 2011. ISBN 978-1-58528-268-5. Paperbound, xxii + 663 pp. (27.5 × 21.5 cm), \$94, Members \$76. www.ashp.org

Cyclodextrins in Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics, and Biomedicine: Current and Future Industrial Applications. Edited by Erem Bilensoy PhD. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ, 2011. ISBN 978-0-470-47422-8. Clothbound, x + 395 pp. (28.5 × 22 cm), \$149.95. www.wiley.com.

Designing Healthy Communities. By Richard J Jackson MD MPH with Stacy Sinclair EdD. Published by Jossey-Bass, a Wiley Imprint, San Francisco, CA, 2012. ISBN 978-1-118-03366-1. Clothbound, xxxi + 230 pp. (18.5 × 26 cm), \$50. www.josseybass.com

High-Risk IV Medications in Special Patient Populations. Edited by Sandra L Kane-Gill PharmD MSc FCCP FCCM and Joseph F Dasta MSc FCCM FCCP. Published by Springer, New York, NY, 2011. ISBN 978-0-85729-605-4. Clothbound, xvi + 260 pp. (24 × 16 cm), \$139. www.springer.com

Hugo & Russell's Pharmaceutical Microbiology, 8th Edition. Edited by Stephen P Denyer BPharm PhD FRPharmS, Norman Hodges BPharm PhD,

Sean P Gorman CBE BSc PhD FPS, and Brendan F Gilmore BSc PhD MRSC MPS. Published by Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester, UK, 2011. ISBN 978-1-4443-3063-2. Paperbound, x + 513 pp. (24.5 × 19 cm), \$79.95. This book offers a companion Web site with additional teaching resources. www.wiley.com/go/medicine

ImmunoFacts: Vaccines and Immunologic Drugs 2012. By John D Grabenstein RPh PhD FAPhA. Published by Wolters Kluwer Health, St. Louis, MO, 2011. ISBN 978-1574-39334-7. Paperbound, xiv + 1341 pp. (23 × 15.5 cm), \$93.95. www.FactsandComparisons.com

Pharmacology — An Illustrated Review. By Mark A Simmons PhD. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, New York, NY, 2012. ISBN 978-1-60406-205-2. Paperbound, ix + 414 pp. (27.5 × 21.5 cm), \$39.95. An additional 200 questions and answers are available online. www.thieme.com

PSAP—VII, Book 8, Science and Practice of Pharmacotherapy. Published by American College of Clinical Pharmacy, Lenexa, KS, 2011. ISBN 978-1-932658-44-6. Paperbound, viii + 158 pp. (28 × 21 cm), \$100. www.accp.com

Rapid Clinical Pharmacology: A Student Formulary. By Andrew Batchelder MBChB(Hons) BSc(Hons), Charlene Rodrigues MBChB(Hons) BSc(Hons), and Ziad Alrifai MBChB(Hons) MPharm(Hons) MPharmS. Published by John Wiley and Sons, Ltd., Chichester, UK, 2011. ISBN 978-0-4706-5441-5. Paperbound, xiii + 130 pp. (21.5 × 14 cm), \$29.99. www.wiley.com/go/medicine

Understanding Health Outcomes and Pharmacoeconomics. Edited by George E MacKinnon III PhD RPh FASHP. Published by Jones & Bartlett Learning LLC, Burlington, MA, 2013. ISBN 978-0-7637-7099-0. Paperbound, xxii + 218 pp. (23 × 18 cm), \$75.95. www.jblearning.com