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How to Use This Book

This book covers a wide range of topics relevant to the practice of pharmacy and to preparation for the NAPLEX® exam. It summarizes key concepts compiled from NAPLEX® competency statements, the author's academic experience teaching math concepts, editorial experience garnered by the American Pharmacists Association, practitioners' review, and student input. The book is intended not as a replacement to pharmacy math textbooks but as a useful tool to assist students and graduates in preparing for licensure and practice.

The introduction provides information about the NAPLEX® exam's structure to help the graduate focus his or her preparation on content relevant to the exam. The NAPLEX® exam taker must thoroughly understand the NAPLEX® competency statements, which serve as the blueprint for the topics on the exam.

The best way to use this book is as follows:

1. Work through the chapters in sequence starting from the beginning.
2. Review the background material presented under a particular topic, work through the sample problems for that topic, and then work on the practice problems related to the topic.
3. Check your answers after working through all the practice questions related to a particular topic.
4. If you have any wrong answers, check the solutions for an explanation.
5. If needed, refer to one or more of the reference sources listed under "References" for an in-depth explanation of a topic.

You should aim to correctly complete all the sample and practice problems in this book to be confident about your level of preparation for NAPLEX® math.

Information about the NAPLEX®

The NAPLEX® is a computerized fixed-form examination comprising 250 items. Of the 250 questions, 200 are included in your NAPLEX® test score. The remaining 50 items are pretest questions whose utility is being assessed for future NAPLEX® examinations. The 50 pretest items that are not part of your NAPLEX® score are dispersed throughout the exam and cannot be differentiated from other exam items. You have 6 hours total to complete the exam. Once an item is attempted and your final answer is submitted, you cannot go back to review or change your answer. An item cannot be skipped during the exam. A majority of the questions are in a scenario-based (case-based) format; very few are stand-alone questions. The scenarios (cases) and information relevant to them may be scrolled through and reviewed when answering case-based questions. A scaled score of 75 is required to pass the exam successfully. The maximum scaled score possible from a NAPLEX® examination is 150.

Approved Calculator

The examination provides the option of activating an on-screen calculator, which can be switched between scientific and five-function modes as needed. If you request a handheld calculator, the exam center may provide a five-function calculator. Personal calculators, other writing materials, and accessories of any kind are strictly prohibited at the exam seat. When preparing for the exam, practicing on a TI 30X II or an equivalent calculator will be sufficient to familiarize you with the functions needed during the NAPLEX®. An erasable notepad and pen will be provided for use during the exam. No exam materials may be removed from the examination site at any time.