

CALIFORNIA PRACTICE STANDARDS AND JURISPRUDENCE

EXAMINATION FOR PHARMACISTS

(CPJE)

The board's CPJE is comprised of 90 multiple-choice questions, administered by computers at designated test centers throughout the country.

California law (California Business and Professions Code section 4200.2) requires that the CPJE include items that demonstrate proficiency in patient-communication skills, aspects of pharmacy practice and the application of clinical knowledge that is not measured by NAPLEX and California law.

OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS

The development of any examination program involving licensure begins with an occupational analysis, which is a method for identifying the tasks performed in a profession or a job, and the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform that job. The purpose is to describe the activities of the profession in sufficient detail to provide a basis for the development of a professional, job-related licensing examination. The Department of Consumer Affairs' Examination Validation Policy requires that an occupational analysis be performed every three to seven years.

The board completed its most recent job analysis of pharmacists in ~~2010~~. To do this, a job analysis advisory committee was appointed by the board to identify the activities and responsibilities of the California pharmacist and to develop the test specifications. All advisory committee members were also members of the board's Competency Committee, who oversee development of the pharmacist examination. The diversity of this advisory group defined in terms of the actual behaviors that qualified reflective of the pharmacy profession.

The analysis began with a review of the existing detailed content outline for the pharmacist licensure examination, which had been developed during the last job analysis in 2005. Additions and deletions were made to this list, which was developed into a questionnaire. Next the committee approved the rating scales that were used in the survey. Before distribution of the questionnaire to practitioners, a pilot study of a small group of California practicing pharmacists was conducted. The survey questionnaire was revised and finalized. The final survey questionnaire was distributed to 3,000 California-residing licensed pharmacists according to a sample plan.

After the survey data was collected and analyzed, the board's Competency Committee reviewed the results. They then developed the content of the new examination plan based on

the last job analysis was done in 2015, the strike out are typos.
you can find the notice on CA BOP website
http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/applicants/important_notice.pdf

the task statements and knowledge areas determined by the surveyed pharmacists as critical to practice. Tasks that were included in the NAPLEX content outline were removed from the CPJE content outline (because they would be tested on the NAPLEX). The remaining tasks were blended into a new content outline for the CPJE. A copy of this content outline is provided in this bulletin.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CPJE

ROLE OF THE COMPETENCY COMMITTEE

The California State Board of Pharmacy, through its Competency Committee, develops the CPJE. The committee is comprised of pharmacists from a cross section of professional practice and each of California's schools of pharmacy. Competency Committee members are appointed by the board's president. The committee is led in examination development by a contracted psychometric consulting firm, which is hired for expertise in test validation and development and whose staff is educated and experienced in developing and analyzing occupational licensing examinations.

CRITERION-REFERENCED CUT SCORE FOR PASSING

To establish pass/fail standards for the California exam, a criterion-referenced passing score methodology is used. The intent of this methodology is to differentiate between a qualified and unqualified licensure candidate. The passing score is based on a minimum competence criterion that is defined in terms of the actual behaviors that qualified pharmacists would perform if they possessed the knowledge necessary to perform job activities.

During a criterion-referenced passing score procedure, the Competency Committee also considers other factors that would contribute to minimum competence such as prerequisite qualifications (e.g., education, training and experience), the difficulty of the issues addressed in each multiple-choice item, and public health and safety issues. By adopting a criterion-referenced passing score, the board applies the same minimum competence standards to all licensure candidates. Because each version of the examination varies in difficulty, an important advantage of this methodology is that the passing score can be modified to reflect subtle differences in difficulty from one examination to another, providing safeguards to both the candidate and the public.

CONTENT OUTLINE OVERVIEW

The CPJE is comprised of multiple-choice questions that:

- Demonstrate the candidate's proficiency in patient communication skills.
- Examine aspects of contemporary standards of practice for pharmacists in California, including pharmacist care and the application of clinical knowledge to typical pharmacy practice situations that are not evaluated by the NAPLEX.
- Evaluate a candidate's knowledge of applicable state laws and regulations.

Applicants should review the content outline carefully to obtain a reasonable expectation of the different topics for which they will be responsible, and to identify areas for which focused review may be helpful.

Specific references you may want to use for study include California Pharmacy Law, prior issues of the board's newsletter, *The Script*; board-published monographs on drug therapy, *Health Notes*; and Community Pharmacy and

Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy Self-Assessment forms. You can obtain copies of board publications and forms at the board's Web site www.pharmacy.ca.gov. You can also purchase a Pharmacy Law handbook by using the directions on the Web site.

Questions are practice based and are often written in a format that presents a situation, and then asks the candidate to make an appropriate decision or determination based on law.

Examination preparation courses are not necessary for success in the examination and are not a substitute for education and experience. The board does not supply examination preparation providers with confidential exam material. Additionally it is a violation of California law for candidates to provide information regarding examination content to anyone, and the board will take disciplinary action against anyone it finds has compromised the examination.

So based off actually reading this for the first time, having certain questions etched into my memory from 12/15 CPJE, and reading all those student doctor network tips/feelings/etc. towards the CPJE including this gem from some random SDN member "You are absolutely right, CPJE is a mind twister, extremely clinical in a very weird way, there is nothing standard about this exam, expect anything and everything. Pay close attention to details on all topics. 95% of this examination is clinical with very little emphasis on pharmacy practice law. NAPLEX pales in comparison with CPJE, however you will still need all the NAPLEX knowledge without the calculations, and then some more. This is a practical examination only on paper. You could as well be in a real pharmacy doing the real pharmacy staff.." I feel like I understand the CPJE pretty well, why people in the past offer the tips they do and what not.

I also make two pretty big assumptions: 1) the CPJE questions have a very high correlation to the exact year the job analysis was done, 2) and it's geared towards what a typical CA pharmacist has to face everyday and can give an answer to fairly quickly, afterall passing the NAPLEX is supposed to what you're truly capable of with your Pharm D.

Just a little bit of background for myself, I graduated high school in 2008, knew I wanted to pursue pharmacy for certain reasons so I began volunteering and working in pharmacy 2009. Got my BA in bio in 2011 and then interned for 3.5 years (when the medical leave started) while I was at USC.

All the cpje study tips say very similar things (see attached "cpjeplan") pages 3-4 are a syllabus on <http://cpjeexam.com/> which has a 100% money guarantee with their \$120 course but wont reply to me when I asked them what kind of guarantee I'll get if I take the new exam. page 5 has various SDN tips which mainly focus on knowing basic concepts of the top 300 (community pharmacist), and then IV compatibility, black box warnings, monitoring. Thinking back to 2010 where I volunteered at a hospital and worked at cvs, I think knowing those was all that was expected out of a pharmacist.

However, I strongly believe the daily responsibilities of a pharmacist changed drastically in 2010-2015 when I interned from 2011-2015 what was asked of me very closely resembles the changes in the DCO (pages 1-2, in cpjeplan, highlights = additions, strike out = gone). As a result I'm just going to make minor tweaks to the proven strategies like focus on top 200 instead, but be able to answer more indepth questions about them like how I would design a formulary around them, be able to setup DUR's on them, etc. MTM, medical devices, and compounding are huge deals in community pharmacies nowadays I expect to brush up on that (which should be in your rxprep). For law I'm sure there will be a compounding question on there since there have been sterile license changes back in 2014 i think. Anyways I hope you find some of this helpful as it's a long read but honestly reading RxPREP 2016 thoroughly might be all you need, seeing as how the whole basis of CPJE is knowing how to use clinical knowledge (which RxPrep provides all the topics for) to complete the most common-day-to-day tasks of a CA pharmacist. and the law portion is covered by RxPrep in a more updated form, the hard part is predicting what they will focus on (if i were you I'd go on CA BOP's website to see hot topics the pasat several years and then using the 2016 law book to get answers. OR hope for some generous souls to share their experience!

the blueprint, including topics specific to the CPJE blueprint (such as NPSGs, ADC safety, therapeutic interchange, P&T). We have covered these topics completely, along with the more advanced clinical concepts required for this exam.

If you are unsure what is on the exam you can find the list of exam topics (the blueprint) on the board website (under the Applicants tab, and then click for Exam Information). This is included in the exam handbook that is on the website, or is sent once you register.

Note that in the RxPrep test bank we have included the topics for CPJE – and we have attempted to “reword” the practice questions in the handbook. Hopefully, you will also do the practice questions in the exam handbook. If you do not know the topics listed on the blueprint thoroughly (such as how to choose therapeutic interchange drugs, how to safely use ADCs in remote facilities, the Joint Commission’s medication safety goals, and others) you are not ready to test.

rxprep 2014 in regards to CPJE

Law Section of the Exam

Fred Weissman’s law book is a must-have resource (we believe) for those of us practicing in California. It is not only relevant – it is pleasant to read. You can purchase it by clicking on the store at www.rxprep.com or from the USC or Western bookstores.

The law questions should be points that are not missed. Although “law” or “administrative” type questions typically represent up to 20% on the exam, in a sense they represent the more straight-forward material since there is certain information that is required knowledge for a pharmacist practicing legally in the state, while the clinical questions can come from a much broader range of options. The board wants to make sure you are practicing legally.

There are “legal” items that are known to pharmacists practicing in California: such as when to do controlled drug inventory, requirements for an off-site waiver, requirements for the security form, for bottle labeling, and so on. If you have NOT practiced in a community setting in California it may be a wise investment to use our 4-part video series (that comes with a corresponding quiz bank so that you can know if you have retained key law information.) This is available by clicking on the CPJE link at www.rxprep.com.

Best wishes for your CPJE preparation.

CPJE POINTERS – FOR CA EXAM TAKERS

This text includes the topics that overlap with the CPJE (Medication Safety, ID, Immunizations, HIV, others). The clinical topics not covered on that NAPLEX that are tested in the CPJE are included in the separate CPJE course (NPSGs, therapeutic interchange, formulary, others). The California law is covered completely. The CPJE course is available at www.rxprep.com. We recommend, in addition, reading through Fred Weissman’s book on California community law; this is a standard resource in California for community pharmacy law.

Best wishes for your exam preparation.

RxPrep 2015

2016 EDITION

RxPrep®
COURSE BOOK

A Comprehensive
Course for the
NAPLEX®
and Clinical Content
for the CPJE