Certified Pharmacy Technician (ExCPT) Study Sheet

Drug-class suffixes · brand → generic · insulin · sig codes · pharmacy math · law facts

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EXAM FACTS — NHA EXCPT

Item	Fact
Passing score	scaled score 390 on a 200–500 scale — a scaled score, not a percentage
Form	100 scored + 20 pretest items · 2 hours 10 minutes · 2023 ExCPT test plan (effective July 9, 2025), 5 domains

DRUG-CLASS SUFFIX PATTERNS

Suffix	Class
-pril	ACE inhibitor (lisinopril)
-sartan	angiotensin receptor blocker, ARB (losartan)
-statin	HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (simvastatin)
-prazole	proton pump inhibitor, PPI (pantoprazole)
-olol	beta blocker (metoprolol)

Suffix	Class
-dipine	calcium channel blocker (amlodipine)
-gliptin	DPP-4 inhibitor
-gliflozin	SGLT2 inhibitor
-tide	GLP-1 receptor agonist
-zolam / -azepam	benzodiazepines

EXAMPLE DRUGS — BRAND → GENERIC

Brand	Generic (class)
Lipitor	atorvastatin (statin)
Cozaar	losartan (ARB)
Norvasc	amlodipine (calcium channel blocker)

Brand	Generic (class)
Lasix	furosemide (loop diuretic)
Glucophage	metformin
Zoloft	sertraline (SSRI)
Plavix	clopidogrel (antiplatelet)

INSULIN CATEGORIES

Insulin	Category
Lispro / aspart · Regular	rapid-acting · short-acting
NPH · Glargine / detemir	intermediate-acting · long-acting

SIG CODES — BARE EXPANSIONS

Code	Meaning
po	by mouth
bid	twice daily
tid	three times daily
qid	four times daily
qhs	at bedtime
ac / pc	before meals / after meals
prn	as needed

Code	Meaning
q12h	every 12 hours
gtt	drops
ou	both eyes
pr	rectally
sl	under the tongue (sublingual)

Error-prone abbreviations (such as QD, QOD, or U for units) are never used as written — they are clarified and written out in full.

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PHARMACY MATH — QUICK REFERENCE

Calculation	Formula / value
Days' supply	quantity dispensed ÷ amount used per day
Conversions	1 oz = 30 mL · 1 tsp = 5 mL · 1 tbsp = 15 mL · 1 g = 1,000 mg · 1 kg = 2.2 lb
Grain	1 gr = 65 mg (convention used when a prescription is written in grains)
% w/v / % w/w	grams per 100 mL / grams per 100 g; ratio strength 1:X = 1 g in X mL
Dilution	`C1 × V1 = C2 × V2`
Pediatric dose rules	Young's: age (yr) ÷ (age + 12) × adult dose · Clark's: weight (lb) ÷ 150 × adult dose · Fried's: age (mo) ÷ 150 × adult dose

SCOPE & LAW FACTS

Item	Reference
Final verification; clinical counseling / DUR	pharmacist — final verification compares the finished product with the original prescription before release
Technician scope	collects, prepares, processes, stocks, labels, and escalates
Counseling offer (OBRA '90)	the technician may make the offer; the pharmacist counsels

Item	Reference
Schedule I	no accepted medical use; never dispensed
Schedule II	no refills; a new prescription is required
Schedule III / IV	refills up to 5 within 6 months
DEA forms	222 (or CSOS): ordering Schedule II · 106: theft or significant loss · 41: destruction documentation
Controlled-substance inventory	biennial inventory every two years; exact count of Schedule II
FDA recall classes	I = reasonable probability of serious harm or death · II = temporary or reversible harm possible · III = harm unlikely

WHAT THIS SHEET DOESN'T COVER

- Applying drug-class and sig knowledge to full dispensing scenarios across all five test-plan domains.
- Blueprint-weighted scenario application — workflow, safety, and law situations, not just reference facts.
- Timed, full-length exam simulation.
- An explanation for every answer — why the right answers are right and the wrong ones are wrong.
- A fresh set of questions on every attempt, so practice never repeats itself.

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Reference facts are those used across the PassProfessor Certified Pharmacy Technician (ExCPT) question bank and its NHA test-plan dossier. ExCPT is NHA's exam and is distinct from PTCB's PTCE.

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