

# Massachusetts Certified Medication Aide (CMA) Training Program Pretest Guide

## What is a CMA?

A Certified Medication Aide (CMA) is a healthcare professional trained to administer medications to residents of long-term care facilities under the supervision of a licensed nurse.

## Pretest for Enrollment in the Training

Before enrolling in the CMA training program, prospective students will take a pretest to assess their readiness for the training course. This pretest assesses the competencies needed to be successful in the training program. A competency is a skill or piece of knowledge that you are able to do.

The pretest assesses the following competencies to ensure that are able to:

- Read and write in English at a competency level necessary to complete CMA duties.
- Perform basic math functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, subtraction).
- Locate information on a medication label.
- Follow written instructions.
- Understand time intervals.
- Interpret what a word means through context.
- Identify examples of factual documentation.
- Identify examples of complete documentation.

## Sample Pretest Questions

Here is a **sample** pretest. You can take this sample pretest to become familiar with the types of questions you can expect. **\*THIS IS NOT THE PRETEST THAT YOU WILL TAKE TO BE ENROLLED IN THE TRAINING.**

1. Mr. Adams is ordered 10 mg of a thyroid medication. The medication is available as a 20 mg tablet with a score line. The order says to split the pill. How much of the tablet should be given to Mr. Adams?
  - a) 1 tablet
  - b)  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablet
  - c)  $\frac{1}{4}$  tablet
  - d) 2 tablets

2. Mrs. Petro gets 60 mg per day of an antibiotic. It is given in three doses at 8AM, 2PM, and 8PM. How much is each dose?
  - a) 180 mg
  - b) 90 mg
  - c) 30 mg
  - d) 20mg
  
3. Ms. Palley takes 20 mg of a blood pressure medication in the morning. She takes a larger dose of 30 mg in the evening. How many mg of blood pressure medication does she get in one day?
  - a) 10 mg
  - b) 30 mg
  - c) 50 mg
  - d) 60 mg
  
4. A bottle of diuretic medication for Mrs. Naser says 20 mg per 1 mL. The doctor's order is for 40 mg. How many mL should you give?
  - a) 1 mL
  - b) 2 mL
  - c) 100 mL
  - d) 200 mL
  
5. Mr. Peterson has an order for 440 mg of an analgesic. The strength of each tablet is 220 mg. How many tablets should you give him?
  - a)  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablet
  - b) 1 tablet
  - c) 2 tablets
  - d) 4 tablets
  
6. Mr. Silvestri takes 2 tablets of a medication for stomach upset four times a day. How many tablets does he take in one day?
  - a) 2 tablets
  - b) 4 tablets
  - c) 8 tablets
  - d) 12 tablets
  
7. Mrs. Nguyen uses her inhaler 2 **puffs at a time**, and she takes it **3 times each day** for asthma. How many total puffs does she take in one day?
  - a) 2 puffs
  - b) 3 puffs
  - c) 5 puffs
  - d) 6 puffs

8. Mr. Lubin asks if he needs a new inhaler. The counter shows it started at 150 puffs. Now it reads 70. How many puffs has he used?
- a) 80 puffs
  - b) 90 puffs
  - c) 100 puffs
  - d) 220 puffs
9. You are doing a shift change count for Mrs. Santori's seizure medication. Yesterday, the count was 19 pills. This evening the count was 16 pills. What is the difference in the pill count?
- a) 1 pill
  - b) 2 pills
  - c) 3 pills
  - d) 4 pills
10. Mrs. Ruiz needs 5.0 mL of a cough syrup. What should you use to measure the dose?
- a) Paper cup
  - b) Coffee cup
  - c) Medication cup with markings
  - d) Kitchen spoon



11. Look at the syringe. How many mL of medication have been measured?
- a) 1.5 mL
  - b) 2.0 mL
  - c) 15 mL
  - d) 20 mL

12. Mrs. Nelson takes an antibiotic for bronchitis. The label says: "Take **1 tablet every 8 hours.**" Her first dose was given at **9:00 AM**. When should the next dose be given?
- a) 10:00 AM
  - b) 3:00 PM
  - c) 5:00 PM
  - d) 9:00 PM

John O'Brien  
**FUROSEMIDE 40 mg**  
TAKE ONE TABLET BY MOUTH  
TWICE DAILY  
50 tablets  
Refills: 1      Dr. Maria Appleton  
  
Main Street Pharmacy 555-9090

13. Look at this label for Mr. O'Brien. How many times a day does he take the medication?
- a) 1 time
  - b) 2 times
  - c) 3 times
  - d) 4 times
14. Look at the label for Mr. O'Brien. What is the name of the medication?
- a) Furosemide
  - b) John O'Brien
  - c) Maria Appleton
  - d) Main Street Pharmacy
15. The label on Mr. Chan's antibiotic says: "Take **1 capsule with breakfast.**" When should the medication be given?
- a) 7:30 AM
  - b) Noon
  - c) At night before bed
  - d) Any time during the day
16. The Medication Administration Record says: "Two eye drops in each ear, three times a day." How will you administer the medication?
- a) Put drops in the resident's eyes.
  - b) Put drops in the resident's orange juice.
  - c) Put drops in resident's ear.
  - d) Put drops under resident's tongue.

17. Mrs. Baptiste's medication label says: "Do not crush or chew."  
What does this mean?
- a) She should chew the pill if she cannot swallow the pill whole.
  - b) Crush the pill and mix it into food.
  - c) Crush it only if she cannot swallow it whole.
  - d) Give the tablet whole.
18. After giving ibuprofen to Mrs. Morris at 2:00 PM, she says, "My headache feels better." Which note is the best example of a factual note written without opinion?
- a) Resident looks happy and seems to feel fine.
  - b) Gave ibuprofen to Mrs. Morris at 2:00 PM. She reports that her headache feels better.
  - c) Withheld ibuprofen for Mrs. Morris because I don't think it will help.
  - d) Gave Mrs. Morris something for her headache to stop her complaining.
19. After giving 10 mL of cough syrup to Mr. Abbott at 2:00 PM. He says, "This helped my cough." Which note is the most complete?
- a) Mr. Abbott is fine because I gave him medication.
  - b) Resident is fine and doesn't need any more medication today.
  - c) Gave Mr. Abbott 10 mL Delsym® at 2:00PM. He reports that it helped his cough.
  - d) Gave resident meds this afternoon.
20. Mrs. Jones has a prescription for topical cream to be applied to a rash on her arm.  
In this sentence, topical means:
- a) A medication that Mrs. Jones will swallow.
  - b) A medication that is applied to an area of the skin.
  - c) A medication that is mixed into food.
  - d) A medication that is placed under the tongue.
21. Mr. Simon's order for Metoprolol says it should be **held** if the pulse is below 55 beats per minute (bpm). You **give** his medication because his pulse is:
- a) 58 bpm
  - b) 54 bpm
  - c) 52 bpm
  - d) 45 bpm

## Answer Key

Question Number	Answer
1	B
2	D
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	C
7	D
8	A
9	C
10	C
11	D
12	C
13	B
14	A
15	A
16	C
17	D
18	B
19	C
20	B
21	A