PEBC STUDY SHEET · AREA 1B

Providing Care: Distribution

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Pharmacist Qualifying Examination

20% of Part I · 5 competencies · 2026 blueprint

Area 1B, Providing Care: Distribution, is about 20% of Part I in PEBC's 2026 blueprint. It covers the path a prescription takes: reviewing and processing it, preparing the product, verifying it, releasing it to the patient, and managing the inventory behind it. Questions test legality, appropriateness, calculations and the safety checks at each step.

You should be able to: How many mL of a 10% stock solution are needed to make 250 mL of a 2% solution?

Every competency: the key point and the trap

1.6 Review and process prescriptions

A prescription is checked for completeness: patient, date, drug, strength, dosage form, quantity or duration, directions, refills, and the prescriber's name and signature or a verifiable electronic equivalent.

Trap: Checking only that the prescription is legally complete and missing that the dose is clinically wrong.

1.7 Prepare products and preparations for dispensing

Preparation includes selecting the right product by name, strength and form, counting or measuring, and labelling.

Trap: Adding the diluent volume to the whole final volume instead of making up to it, which gives a weaker product.

1.8 Verify the accuracy and quality of dispensed products and preparations

Final verification is an independent check of the product against the original prescription, not against the label typed from it.

Trap: Checking the product against the computer label, which repeats any error made at data entry.

1.9 Release verified products and preparations

Release confirms the right patient with two identifiers (for example name and date of birth) before the product leaves the pharmacy.

Trap: Reassuring the patient that generics look different without first confirming that the product is in fact correct.

1.10 Manage pharmacy inventory to ensure safe and efficient distribution

Inventory management balances availability against waste: order points, turnover and expiry rotation (first expiry, first out).

Trap: Throwing away exposed vaccines straight away (which may be wasteful) or using them as if nothing happened (which may be unsafe).

Key terms

DIN: Drug Identification Number, the eight-digit number Health Canada assigns to a drug product authorized for sale.

NPN: Natural Product Number, assigned to a licensed natural health product.

Part-fill: Dispensing part of the total quantity of a prescription at intervals, as the prescriber authorizes.

LASA: Look-alike, sound-alike: drug names or packages easily confused.

Tall man lettering: Capitals inside drug names to highlight differences, such as hydrOXYzine and hydrALAZINE.

Beyond-use date: The date after which a compounded preparation should not be used.

Cold chain: Keeping temperature-sensitive products within their range from manufacturer to patient.

Recall Type I: Health Canada's most serious recall class: a reasonable probability of serious harm or death.

Two identifiers: Two independent facts, such as name and date of birth, used to confirm a patient's identity.

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