PEBC STUDY SHEET · AREA 2

Knowledge and Expertise

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Pharmacist Qualifying Examination

11% of Part I · 1 competency · 2026 blueprint

Area 2, Knowledge and Expertise, is about 11% of Part I in PEBC's 2026 blueprint, all of it competency 2.2: using professional judgment to make evidence-informed decisions in the patient's best interests. Questions ask you to weigh evidence, read study results, choose a reliable source and decide what to do when the evidence and the patient's situation pull in different directions.

You should be able to: Bleeding occurred in 2% of the placebo group and 5% of the treatment group. What is the number needed to harm?

Every competency: the key point and the trap

2.2 Use professional judgment to make evidence-informed decisions in the best interests of the patient

Evidence-informed practice combines the best available evidence, clinical expertise and the patient's values and circumstances.

Trap: Quoting the relative risk reduction as if it were the chance that the drug will help this patient.

Key terms

RCT: Randomized controlled trial: participants are assigned to groups by chance.

Meta-analysis: A statistical combination of the results of several studies.

ARR: Absolute risk reduction: control event rate minus treatment event rate.

RRR: Relative risk reduction: ARR divided by the control event rate.

NNT: Number needed to treat: 1 divided by the ARR.

NNH: Number needed to harm: 1 divided by the absolute increase in an adverse outcome.

Confidence interval: A range of values likely to contain the true effect; one that crosses no difference means the result is not statistically significant.

Product monograph: Health Canada-approved document describing a drug's indications, dosing, warnings and pharmacology.

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