PEBC STUDY SHEET · AREA 5

Professionalism

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Pharmacist Qualifying Examination

12% of Part I · 4 competencies · 2026 blueprint

Area 5, Professionalism, is about 12% of Part I in PEBC's 2026 blueprint. It covers adhering to legislation and regulation, applying ethical principles, promoting equity, diversity and inclusion, and building a culture of patient safety and continuous quality improvement. Part I tests national principles and federal law, not the rules of one province.

You should be able to: Which fix is strongest after a mix-up between two look-alike products: a staff reminder, retraining or separating the products and adding barcode scanning?

Every competency: the key point and the trap

5.1 Adhere to relevant legislative and regulatory requirements

The Food and Drugs Act and Regulations govern the sale of drugs in Canada; authorized drug products carry a DIN, and licensed natural health products carry an NPN.

Trap: Assuming federal rules and provincial scope are the same thing; the exam tests federal law and national principles.

5.2 Apply ethical principles to practice

Core principles: respect for autonomy, beneficence (doing good), non-maleficence (avoiding harm), justice (fairness) and fidelity (keeping promises and trust).

Trap: Thinking a caller's good intentions or job title are enough to share information without the patient's consent.

5.4 Promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in the practice environment

Equity means care that meets people's different needs so outcomes are fair; it is not identical treatment for everyone.

Trap: Assuming treating everyone the same is the same as treating everyone fairly.

5.5 Promote a culture of patient safety and continuous quality improvement

Report errors and near misses through the pharmacy's incident system; anonymous, aggregated reporting (for example to ISMP Canada) helps the whole system learn.

Trap: Blaming the individual who made the error and stopping there, which leaves the same weakness in place.

Key terms

CDSA: Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the federal law on narcotics, controlled drugs and targeted substances.

NCR: Narcotic Control Regulations under the CDSA.

NAPRA: National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities, which publishes the National Drug Schedules and model standards.

Autonomy: A capable person's right to make their own decisions about their care.

Non-maleficence: The duty to avoid causing harm.

Cultural safety: Care in which the patient feels respected and safe, as judged by the patient.

NIHB: Non-Insured Health Benefits, the federal program covering medications for eligible First Nations and Inuit.

Near miss: An error caught before it reached the patient.

Just culture: A safety culture that learns from error while holding people accountable for reckless choices.

RCA: Root cause analysis: a structured review of system causes after an incident.

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