

Pharmacy Technician Certification (PTCE)

QUICK REFERENCE CHEAT SHEET | PTCE / NHA ExCPT

PHARMACY MATH FORMULAS

Calculation	Formula
Dosage Calculation	$\text{Dose (mg)} / \text{Concentration (mg/mL)} = \text{Volume (mL)}$
IV Flow Rate (mL/hr)	$\text{Volume (mL)} / \text{Time (hr)} = \text{Flow Rate}$
IV Drip Rate (gtt/min)	$(\text{Volume mL} \times \text{Drop Factor}) / \text{Time in min} = \text{gtt/min}$
Days Supply	$\text{Total Quantity} / \text{Daily Dose} = \text{Days Supply}$
Percent Concentration	$(\text{Part} / \text{Whole}) \times 100 = \% \text{ concentration}$
Alligation	Used to calculate mixing two concentrations to desired strength
Sig Codes (common)	QD=daily; BID=twice; TID=three times; QID=four times; PRN=as needed

TOP 200 DRUG CLASSES -- HIGH YIELD

Drug Class	Example	Common Use
Statins	Atorvastatin (Lipitor)	High cholesterol
ACE Inhibitors	Lisinopril (Zestril)	Hypertension, heart failure
Beta Blockers	Metoprolol (Lopressor)	Hypertension, angina, arrhythmia
SSRIs	Sertraline (Zoloft)	Depression, anxiety
Proton Pump Inhibitors	Omeprazole (Prilosec)	GERD, ulcers
Benzodiazepines	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Anxiety, seizures -- C-IV controlled
Opioids	Oxycodone (OxyContin)	Pain -- C-II controlled; ID required
Antibiotics (penicillin)	Amoxicillin	Bacterial infections

DEA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE SCHEDULES

Schedule	Description	Examples
C-I	No medical use; high abuse potential	Heroin, LSD, marijuana (federal)
C-II	High abuse; severe dependence; Rx required; no refills	Oxycodone, Adderall, fentanyl
C-III	Moderate abuse; Rx required; up to 5 refills in 6 mo	Tylenol w/codeine, buprenorphine
C-IV	Lower abuse; Rx required; up to 5 refills in 6 mo	Alprazolam, zolpidem, tramadol
C-V	Lowest abuse; some OTC	Cough syrups w/codeine (state-dependent)

EXAM-DAY TIPS

- + NDC number: 5-digit labeler + 4-digit product + 2-digit package (11 digits total).
- + Pharmacy technicians may NOT counsel patients on drug therapy -- that is the pharmacist's role.
- + BUD (Beyond Use Date): different from expiration date; set when drug is compounded or opened.
- + High-alert medications: insulin, anticoagulants, concentrated electrolytes -- double-check always.
- + Prescription forgery signs: altered quantities, no DEA number, unfamiliar prescriber.
- + Practice 1,000+ questions -> voltexam.com/apps/pharmacy

Practice 1,000+ questions + built-in tools | voltexam.com/apps/pharmacy