

# Functional Elements of Private Practice: A Quiz

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There has been some grumbling recently that board exams are out of touch with clinical medicine. In an effort to return an element of the pragmatic, future exams will include at least one of the following 10 questions.

1. You suddenly get a generous, one-year supply of a drug sample. This indicates:
  - (a) the expiration date is sometime next week
  - (b) the batch number was featured prominently on a recent episode of *60 Minutes*
  - (c) the pleasant new flavor can best be described as "slug frappé"
2. You pride yourself on keeping at least seven current issues of popular magazines in your waiting room. On average, five of them will include:
  - (a) quack medical advice
  - (b) a cartoon about how out of date doctors' office magazines are
  - (c) perfume samples which cause acute respiratory distress in 37.2% of your patients
3. Several of your patients insist on calling you "Doc." This indicates:
  - (a) their immense respect for you
  - (b) they have no intention of paying their bill
  - (c) they hold you in the same regard as Bugs does Elmer
4. The most common goodies handed out by drug companies are:
  - (a) golf accessories
  - (b) note pads that are completely covered with advertisement
  - (c) some weird plastic thing which, unless you took time to talk to the rep, you will go to your grave without ever having identified it
5. Upon encountering advice in a *Reader's Digest* article that differs from your advice, most patients will:
  - (a) realize that the magazine, while well intentioned, cannot possibly understand the intricacies and subtle nuances of his or her case
  - (b) drop you like a hot toad
  - (c) check the yellow-page listings under "Attorneys: Medical Malpractice"
6. There are currently 375,280 health care experts lecturing on the virtues of "managed care." How many of them have ever actually managed a patient's care?
  - (a) few
  - (b) fewer
  - (c) zip
7. You sneeze in the presence of three or more patients. At least one will say to you:
  - (a) physician heal thyself
  - (b) I know the name of a good doctor
  - (c) I hope you wash your hands
8. You are introduced at a cocktail party as a doctor. The balance of the evening will be dedicated to:
  - (a) a free health clinic
  - (b) theatrical reenactments of the final throes of various diseases
  - (c) inquiries as to your marital status
9. Although it is no longer amusing, the substitution of "Hypocritical Oath" for "Hippocratic Oath" is at least venerable. When was this pun first inflicted on the profession?
  - (a) Ides of March, CLXII
  - (b) Saint Swithin's Day, 943
  - (c) archeological evidence is inconclusive
10. The proposition that doctors are not good at business is an article of faith. Which faith?
  - (a) Faith and Begorra, Medical Consultants, Inc.
  - (b) Faith Accompli Financial Planning, Ltd.
  - (c) Faith The Music, Attorneys at Law

Answer key available upon request. Send SASE to:  
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