The Examination Process - Computer-Based Testing
Certification Board in Infection Control  www.cbic.org
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The Examination Process
Computer Based Testing
Sheila MacDonald RN BN CIC
Margaret Gallagher, BS, MS, RN, CIC
Sharon Krystofiak MS, MT(ASCP) CIC
Certification Board in Infection Control
www.CBIC.org

Objectives
- Review the process of taking the computer based exam
- Provide points on application specific to international candidates
- Advise examinees about the structure of exam questions and answer options

We know what you’d really like us to
tell you...however

The computer based exam
- First exam is always the higher security computer based exam
- The recertification exam (SARE) is paper based at this time
- Technology to mark a paper based exam is becoming extinct
- SARE will be computerized in future

So....you have decided
- that you want to write the exam....or you are at least thinking about it

First of all......

The CBIC Handbook
- A goldmine of information
- Download it from website www.cbic.org
- A hard copy can be requested
- Read it carefully

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Application Process

Hard copy method

- Fill in application
- Will receive notification of your eligibility to test
- Make appointment within 90 days at test centre once you receive your eligibility to write from CBIC.
- You can choose the time of year to take the test

For U.S. Applicants, there is an online process option too.

Scheduling Summary

- Application process remains similar
- Scheduling Options: phone or web
- Schedule 3 days in advance of test date (select your test center, date and time)
- Rescheduling possible:
  - 3 days in advance
  - One opportunity
- ADA accommodations available

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How many testing sites?
- 140 Assessment Centres in US and Canada
- Exam available in 30 countries including US

International Candidates
- Manual application
- Cannot book an exam date on line
- There is a $35.00 fee
- Will receive mark in approximately 3 weeks

Taking the test
- Arrive in plenty of time
- Late comers will be turned away if more than 15 minutes past the time of the appointment
- No paper is allowed. Scrap paper will be provided and must be returned at the end of the exam
- Non-programmable calculator is allowed
- You will be given some practice time with the mouse and computer

Taking the test
- Must have your letter with you and photo ID
- So what does the exam look like?
  - Practice Exam – mirror image – gives you practice with the format
  - Available for purchase from CBIC
  - The questions will be different!

Taking the test
- 3 hours to write the computerized exam
- US candidates will receive a "pass" or "fail" notice when the exam is finished.
- International candidates
  - The mark will arrive in the mail 2-3 weeks following the exam.

CIC
- Why should I consider taking the CIC exam??
  - There are a number of reasons....

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CIC
- Recognition and marketability
- Professional development
- Personal satisfaction
- Regulation – it may be required to keep your position
- It provides an objective measure of competence to employers and the public

Licensure versus competency
- Licensure assures minimal competency to practice in a field,
- Certification indicates mastery of a defined body of knowledge

Competency
- CBIC does not believe that continuing education credits measure competency
- Ongoing process that requires repeat measurement

Competency
- Incorporates performance of several related tasks and/or requires the use of a variety of knowledge domains/cognitive levels

How do we measure competency?
- Through a comprehensive examination that measures the skills and abilities expected of an ICP that could be working in a variety of settings.

Validity of the Certification Examinations
- Developed under the guidance of Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), an independent testing agency.
- AMP oversees scoring of the exam.
- Each test item undergoes both expert and statistical scrutiny before use.
- Passing scores are calculated to compensate for item difficulty & differences between exams.
- Acknowledged by the Joint Commission as an element of an effective infection control program.

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**Competency**

- There is no way to guarantee competence in any field.
- We can only measure factors that may indicate competence

**However...**

- We would like all competent candidates to be able to successfully pass the exams—there is no intention to create trick questions.
- There is a practice requirement.
- There is a training requirement.
- Earning the CIC credential says something about the practitioner.

**Certification & Recertification**

- CBIC believes that:
  - Continuing education does NOT demonstrate competence
  - Demonstrating competence is an ongoing process requiring repeat measurement

  [Certificate of Excellence Image]

- If you achieved your CIC in 1985....
- Is it sustainable over the course of your career?
- Does it ensure competence to deal with today’s ICP requirements?

**Driving Forces**

- Public awareness of healthcare associated infections
- Informed consumers and public expectation of healthcare
- The public expects health care providers to be competent
- Emphasis on patient and occupational safety

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What is important to test?
- Knowledge alone does not necessarily imply competent practice, or successful performance on the job

What are we testing?
- Memorization? Regurgitation?
- Evaluates declarative knowledge:
- Minimizes how knowledge is used in the job environment
- the trivial
- the superfluous
- the irrelevant

Cognitive Levels
- **Declarative/Recall** - retention of knowledge
  - assess static concepts
  - answer will not change
  - ability to use knowledge on the job is not assessed

Recall
- Ex. What is the capital of Massachusetts?
- Ex. What are the steps in outbreak management?
- The answers will not change — you either know it or you don't

Cognitive Levels
- **Procedural/Application** – dynamic or variable
  - Evaluates the ability to describe the performance of given activities under certain conditions
  - Ex. Determine the appropriate next step, given a task scenario

Application/Procedural
- Example:
  - A patient is admitted with a post-operative wound infection. MRSA is cultured from the wound. What type of precautions are required for this patient?

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Analysis/Performance

- Ramps it up a notch
- Analysis questions best for measuring competence - measures factors that indicate competence
- Ex. Evaluate the ability to actually perform given activities under certain conditions

Analysis

- An ICP is conducting a "best practice" quality improvement project in a LTC unit and is reviewing the occurrence of conjunctivitis over a 4 year period.

Analysis

- What is the best interpretation of this data?
  - Analysis of absolute numbers of infections is misleading.
  - There is a problem as the number of cases increased in two out of four years.
  - Literature indicates that there is no issue with this number of cases.
  - Eye infections are uncommon in the elderly.

Ok..on to the test questions

- What makes a good question?

Good question construction

- A well constructed question:
  - Follows the normal rules of grammar
  - Clearly states the question
  - Avoids negative wording
  - Uses clear and simple language
  - Eliminates irrelevant clues

Good question construction

- Are the stem and options grammatically correct?
- Are they clearly written?
- Is the stem too long?
- Can it be shortened without altering the actual question?
Consider this question.....

- A patient has been admitted to one of the General Medicine nursing units in your hospital. The person is homeless, a known drug abuser, and has been admitted for investigation of a chronic cough and weight loss. A PPD has been ordered.

cont’d

- The test is administered in the following manner:
  a) Subcutaneous
  b) Intramuscular
  c) Intradermal
  d) Orally

What is wrong with the previous question?

- Do you need all the information in the stem to answer the question?
- What is the question that is being asked?

Revised version

- The appropriate administration route of a TST (tuberculin skin test) is:
  a) Subcutaneous
  b) Intrathecal
  c) Intramuscular
  d) Intradermal

To Contact CBIC

- Website: www.CBIC.org

- Please be advised that CBIC does not produce or endorse educational offerings such as study courses, study guides or "flashcards."
- We take no credit or responsibility for the contents thereof.

In summary

- We’ve reviewed the process of taking the computer based exam
- Provided points on application specific to international candidates
- Advised examinees about the structure of exam questions and answer options
- Any questions???
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