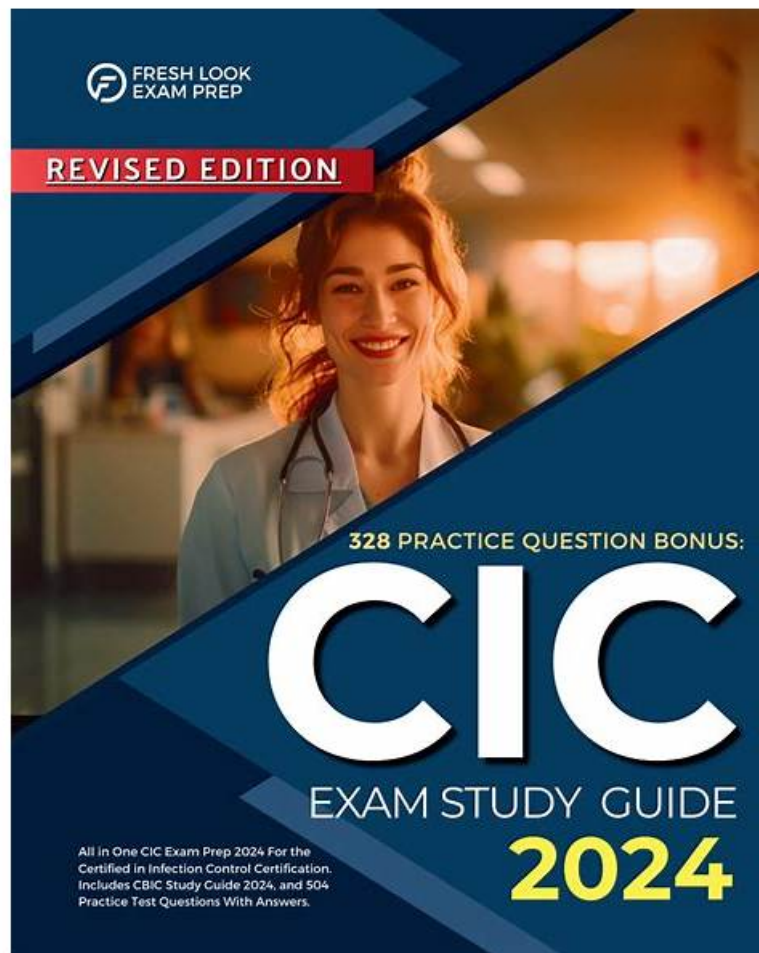


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## CBIC Certified Infection Control Exam Sample Questions (Q112-Q117):

### NEW QUESTION # 112

An infection preventionist (IP) encounters a surgeon at the nurse's station who loudly disagrees with the IP's surgical site infection findings. The IP's BEST response is to:

- A. Ask the surgeon to change their tone and leave the nurses' station if they refuse.
- **B. Ask the surgeon to speak in a more private setting to review their concerns.**
- C. Report the surgeon to the chief of staff.
- D. Calmly explain that the findings are credible.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The scenario involves a conflict between an infection preventionist (IP) and a surgeon regarding surgical site infection (SSI) findings, occurring in a public setting (the nurse's station). The IP's response must align with professional communication standards, infection control priorities, and the principles of collaboration and conflict resolution as emphasized by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC).

The "best" response should de-escalate the situation, maintain professionalism, and facilitate a constructive dialogue. Let's evaluate each option:

- \* A. Report the surgeon to the chief of staff: Reporting the surgeon to the chief of staff might be considered if the behavior escalates or violates policy (e.g., harassment or disruption), but it is an escalation that should be a last resort. This action does not address the immediate disagreement about the SSI findings or attempt to resolve the issue collaboratively. It could also strain professional relationships and is not the best initial response, as it bypasses direct communication.
- \* B. Calmly explain that the findings are credible: Explaining the credibility of the findings is important and demonstrates the IP's confidence in their work, which is based on evidence-based infection control practices. However, doing so in a public setting like the nurse's station, especially with a loud disagreement, may not be effective. The surgeon may feel challenged or defensive, potentially worsening the situation. While this response has merit, it lacks consideration of the setting and the need for privacy to discuss sensitive data.
- \* C. Ask the surgeon to speak in a more private setting to review their concerns: This response is the most appropriate as it addresses the immediate need to de-escalate the public confrontation and move the discussion to a private setting. It shows respect for the surgeon's concerns, maintains professionalism, and allows the IP to review the SSI findings (e.g., data collection methods, definitions, or surveillance techniques) in a controlled environment. This aligns with CBIC's emphasis on effective communication and collaboration with healthcare teams, as well as the need to protect patient confidentiality and maintain a professional atmosphere. It also provides an opportunity to educate the surgeon on the evidence behind the findings, which is a key IP role.
- \* D. Ask the surgeon to change their tone and leave the nurses' station if they refuse: Requesting a change in tone is reasonable given the loud disagreement, but demanding the surgeon leave if they refuse is confrontational and risks escalating the conflict. This approach could damage the working relationship and does not address the underlying disagreement about the SSI findings. While maintaining a respectful environment is important, this response prioritizes control over collaboration and is less constructive than seeking a private discussion.

The best response is C, as it promotes a professional, collaborative approach by moving the conversation to a private setting. This allows the IP to address the surgeon's concerns, explain the SSI surveillance methodology (e.g., NHSN definitions or CBIC guidelines), and maintain a positive working relationship, which is critical for effective infection prevention programs. This strategy reflects CBIC's focus on leadership, communication, and teamwork in healthcare settings.

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CBIC Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Core Competency Model (updated 2023), Domain V:

Management and Communication, which stresses effective interpersonal communication and conflict resolution.

CBIC Examination Content Outline, Domain V: Leadership and Program Management, which includes collaborating with healthcare personnel and addressing disagreements professionally.

CDC Guidelines for SSI Surveillance (2023), which emphasize the importance of clear communication of findings to healthcare teams.

## NEW QUESTION # 113

An infection preventionist has been asked to consult on disinfectant products for use in a long term care home. What should their primary concern be?

- A. Disinfectant products should have a mild odor to reduce allergy concerns.
- B. An appropriate disinfectant should be available whenever items are used on patients known to be colonized with multi drug resistant organisms.
- **C. Disinfectant products should be compatible with the patient care devices used by the facility.**
- D. Patient care items are cleaned whenever visibly soiled.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The most critical factor in choosing disinfectants in long-term care is compatibility with medical devices to prevent damage and ensure

safety. Improper selection can compromise disinfection efficacy and equipment longevity.

\* The APIC/JCR Workbook highlights:

"Organizations should evaluate compatibility of disinfectant products with the materials used in patient care equipment. Incompatibility can lead to equipment degradation or malfunction".

\* This ensures compliance with manufacturer instructions and preserves warranty and functionality.

References:

APIC/JCR Workbook, 4th Edition, Chapter 8 - Disinfection and Sterilization

#### NEW QUESTION # 114

What rate is expressed by the number of patients who acquire infections over a specified time period divided by the population at risk of acquiring an infection during that time period?

- A. Disease specific
- B. Period prevalence
- C. Point prevalence
- **D. Incidence rate**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The incidence rate measures new cases of infection in a population over a defined time period using the formula:

$$\text{Incidence Rate} = \left( \frac{\text{New cases}}{\text{Total population at risk}} \right) \times \text{Multiplier (e.g., 1,000 or 100,000)}$$

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect?

\* B. Disease specific- Refers to infections caused by a particular pathogen, not the general rate of new infections.

\* C. Point prevalence- Measures existing cases at a specific point in time, not new cases.

\* D. Period prevalence- Includes both old and new cases over a set period, unlike incidence, which only considers new cases.

CBIC Infection Control Reference

APIC defines incidence rate as the number of new infections in a population over a given period.

#### NEW QUESTION # 115

Which of the following options describes a correct use of personal protective equipment?

- A. Personal eyeglasses should be worn during suctioning.
- B. Eye protection should be worn when providing patient care if at risk of spreading respiratory disease after unprotected exposure.
- C. Gloves should be worn when handling or touching a cardiac monitor that has been disinfected.
- **D. Surgical masks should be worn during lumbar puncture procedures.**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

According to CDC and APIC guidelines, a surgical mask is required when performing lumbar punctures to prevent bacterial contamination (e.g., meningitis caused by droplet transmission of oral flora).

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect?

\* A. Personal eyeglasses should be worn during suctioning - Incorrect because eyeglasses do not provide adequate eye protection. Goggles or face shields should be used.

\* C. Gloves should be worn when handling or touching a cardiac monitor that has been disinfected - Not necessary unless recontamination is suspected.

\* D. Eye protection should be worn when providing patient care after unprotected exposure - Eye protection should be used before exposure, not just after.

CBIC Infection Control Reference

APIC states that surgical masks must be worn for procedures such as lumbar puncture to reduce infection risk.

#### NEW QUESTION # 116

An infection preventionist is calculating measures of central tendency regarding duration of a surgical procedure using this data set: 2, 2, 3, 4, and 9. Which of the following statements is correct?

- A. The mean is 4.
- B. The mode is 3.
- C. The median is 2.
- D. The standard deviation is 7.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) and dispersion (standard deviation) are statistical tools used to summarize data, such as the duration of surgical procedures, which can help infection preventionists identify trends or risks for surgical site infections. The Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) supports the use of data analysis in the "Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation" domain, aligning with epidemiological principles outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The question provides a data set of 2, 2, 3, 4, and 9, and requires determining the correct statement by calculating these measures.

\* Mean: The mean is the average of the data set, calculated by summing all values and dividing by the number of observations. For the data set 2, 2, 3, 4, and 9:  $(2 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 9) \div 5 = 20 \div 5 = 4$ . Thus, the mean is 4, making Option C correct.

\* Median: The median is the middle value when the data set is ordered. With five values (2, 2, 3, 4, 9), the middle value is the third number, which is 3. Option A states the median is 2, which is incorrect.

\* Mode: The mode is the most frequently occurring value. In this data set, 2 appears twice, while 3, 4, and 9 appear once each, making 2 the mode. Option B states the mode is 3, which is incorrect.

\* Standard Deviation: The standard deviation measures the spread of data around the mean. For a small data set like this, the calculation involves finding the variance (average of squared differences from the mean) and taking the square root. The mean is 4, so the deviations are:  $(2-4)^2 = 4$ ,  $(2-4)^2 = 4$ ,  $(3-4)^2 = 1$ ,  $(4-4)^2 = 0$ ,  $(9-4)^2 = 25$ . The sum of squared deviations is  $4 + 4 + 1 + 0 + 25 = 34$ . The variance is  $34 \div 5$

$= 6.8$ , and the standard deviation is  $\sqrt{6.8} \approx 2.61$  (not 7). Option D states the standard deviation is 7, which is incorrect without further context (e.g., a population standard deviation with n-1 denominator would be  $\sqrt{34} \approx 5.83$ , still not 7).

The CBIC Practice Analysis (2022) and CDC guidelines encourage accurate statistical analysis to inform infection control decisions, such as assessing surgical duration as a risk factor for infections. Based on the calculations, the mean of 4 is the only correct statement among the options, confirming Option C as the answer. Note that the standard deviation of 7 might reflect a miscalculation or misinterpretation (e.g., using a different formula or data set), but with the given data, it does not hold.

References:

\* CBIC Practice Analysis, 2022.

\* CDC Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice, 3rd Edition, 2012.

## NEW QUESTION # 117

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