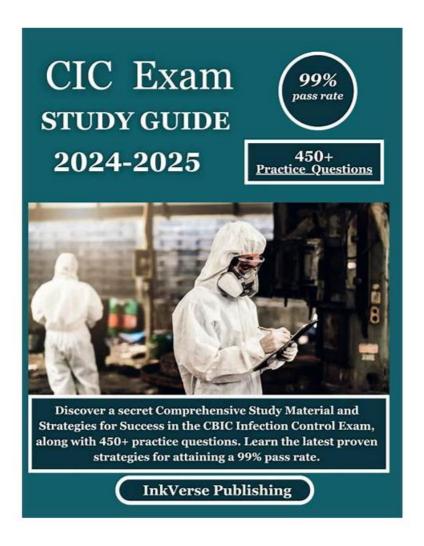
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# CBIC Certified Infection Control Exam Sample Questions (Q116-Q121):

# **NEW QUESTION #116**

The degree of infectiousness of a patient with tuberculosis correlates with

- A. the number of organisms expelled into the air
- B. a tuberculin skin test result that is greater than 20 mm
- C. the hand-hygiene habits of the patient.
- D. a presence of acid-fast bacilli in the blood.

#### Answer: A

#### Explanation:

The infectiousness of tuberculosis (TB) is directly related to the number of Mycobacterium tuberculosis organisms expelled into the air by an infected patient.

Step-by-Step Justification:

- \* TB Transmission Mechanism:
- \* TB spreads through airborne droplet nuclei, which remain suspended for long periods.
- \* Factors Affecting Infectiousness:
- \* High bacterial load in sputum: Smear-positive patients are much more infectious.
- \* Coughing and sneezing frequency: More expelled droplets increase exposure risk.
- \* Environmental factors: Poor ventilation increases transmission.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- \* A. Hand hygiene habits: TB is airborne, not transmitted via hands.
- \* B. Presence of acid-fast bacilli (AFB) in blood: TB is not typically hematogenous, and blood AFB does not correlate with infectiousness
- \* C. Tuberculin skin test (TST) > 20 mm; TST indicates prior exposure, not infectiousness.

CBIC Infection Control References:

\* APIC Text, "Tuberculosis Transmission and Control Measures".

#### **NEW OUESTION #117**

An infection preventionist (IP) observes an increase in primary bloodstream infections in patients admitted through the Emergency Department. Poor technique is suspected when peripheral intravenous (IV) catheters are inserted. The IP should FIRST stratify infections by:

- A. Type of dressing used: gauze, CHG impregnated sponge, or transparent.
- B. Site of insertion: hand, forearm, or antecubital fossa.
- C. Type of skin preparation used for the IV site: alcohol, CHG/alcohol, or iodophor.
- D. Location of IV insertion: pre-hospital, Emergency Department, or in-patient unit.

# Answer: D

#### Explanation:

When an infection preventionist (IP) identifies an increase in primary bloodstream infections (BSIs) associated with peripheral intravenous (IV) catheter insertion, the initial step in outbreak investigation and process improvement is to stratify the data to identify potential sources or patterns of infection. According to the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC), the "Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation" domain emphasizes the importance of systematically analyzing data to pinpoint contributing factors, such as location, technique, or equipment use, in healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). The question specifies poor technique as a suspected cause, and the first step should focus on contextual factors that could influence technique variability. Option A, stratifying infections by the location of IV insertion (pre-hospital, Emergency Department, or in-patient unit), is the most logical first step. Different settings may involve varying levels of training, staffing, time pressure, or adherence to aseptic technique, all of which can impact infection rates. For example, pre- hospital settings (e.g., ambulance services) may have less controlled environments or less experienced personnel compared to in-patient units, potentially leading to technique inconsistencies. The CDC's Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections (2017) recommend evaluating the context of catheter insertion as a critical initial step in investigating BSIs, making this a priority for the IP to identify where the issue is most prevalent. Option B, stratifying by the type of dressing used (gauze, CHG impregnated sponge, or transparent), is important but should follow initial location-based analysis. Dressings play a role in maintaining catheter site integrity and preventing infection, but their impact is secondary to the insertion technique itself. Option C, stratifying by the site of insertion (hand, forearm, or antecubital fossa), is also relevant, as anatomical sites differ in infection risk (e.g., the hand may be more prone to contamination), but this is a more specific factor to explore after broader contextual data is assessed. Option D, stratifying by the type of skin preparation used (alcohol,

CHG/alcohol, or iodophor), addresses antiseptic efficacy, which is a key component of technique.

However, without first understanding where the insertions occur, it's premature to focus on skin preparation alone, as technique issues may stem from systemic factors across locations.

The CBIC Practice Analysis (2022) supports a stepwise approach to HAI investigation, starting with broad stratification (e.g., by location) to guide subsequent detailed analysis (e.g., technique-specific factors). This aligns with the CDC's hierarchical approach to infection prevention, where contextual data collection precedes granular process evaluation. Therefore, the IP should first stratify by location to establish a baseline for further investigation.

References:

- \* CBIC Practice Analysis, 2022.
- \* CDC Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections, 2017.

# **NEW QUESTION #118**

Hand-hygiene audits in a long-term care facility have demonstrated consistently low levels of staff compliance. An infection preventionist is planning an education program to try to improve hand-hygiene rates. Regarding assessment of the effectiveness of the education program, which of the following is true?

- A. A change between pre- and post-test scores correlates well with the expected change in hand-hygiene compliance.
- B. Repeated observations of staff will be required in order to demonstrate that the program has been effective.
- C. A summative evaluation will accurately reflect the extent to which participants will change their hand- hygiene practices.
- D. An evaluation of the program is not required if the program is mandatory.

#### Answer: B

#### Explanation:

The correct answer is B, "Repeated observations of staff will be required in order to demonstrate that the program has been effective," as this statement is true regarding the assessment of the effectiveness of the education program. According to the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) guidelines, evaluating the impact of an education program on hand-hygiene compliance in a long-term care facility requires ongoing monitoring to assess sustained behavior change. Repeated observations provide direct evidence of staff adherence to hand-hygiene protocols over time, allowing the infection preventionist (IP) to measure the program's effectiveness beyond initial training (CBIC Practice Analysis, 2022, Domain IV: Education and Research, Competency 4.2 - Evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs). This method aligns with the World Health Organization (WHO) and CDC recommendations for hand-hygiene improvement, which emphasize continuous auditing to ensure lasting improvements in compliance rates.

Option A (a summative evaluation will accurately reflect the extent to which participants will change their hand-hygiene practices) is incorrect because a summative evaluation, typically conducted at the end of a program, assesses overall outcomes but does not predict future behavior changes or account for long-term compliance, which is critical in this context. Option C (a change between pre- and post-test scores correlates well with the expected change in hand-hygiene compliance) is misleading; while pre- and post-tests can measure knowledge gain, they do not reliably correlate with actual practice changes, as knowledge does not always translate to behavior without observation. Option D (an evaluation of the program is not required if the program is mandatory) is false, as mandatory programs still require evaluation to verify effectiveness, especially when addressing low compliance, per CBIC and quality improvement standards.

The focus on repeated observations aligns with CBIC's emphasis on data-driven assessment to improve infection prevention practices, ensuring that the education program leads to sustained hand-hygiene improvements and reduces healthcare-associated infections (CBIC Practice Analysis, 2022, Domain II:

Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation, Competency 2.4 - Evaluate the effectiveness of infection prevention and control interventions).

References: CBIC Practice Analysis, 2022, Domain II: Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation, Competency 2.4 - Evaluate the effectiveness of infection prevention and control interventions; Domain IV:

Education and Research, Competency 4.2 - Evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs. WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care, 2009. CDC Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings, 2019.

# **NEW QUESTION # 119**

Which of the following active surveillance screening cultures would be appropriate for carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (previously known as carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae) (CRE)?

- A. Abscess or blood cultures
- B. Nares or axillary cultures
- C. Rectal or peri-rectal cultures

• D. Throat or nasopharyngeal cultures

## Answer: C

## Explanation:

Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) colonization is most commonly found in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Therefore, rectal or peri-rectal cultures are recommended for active surveillance screening.

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect?

- \* B. Nares or axillary cultures CRE is not primarily found in the nasal or axillary region; this method is more relevant for detecting MRSA.
- \* C. Abscess or blood cultures While CRE may be present in clinical infections, these cultures are not used for screening asymptomatic carriers.
- \* D. Throat or nasopharyngeal cultures CRE does not commonly colonize the upper respiratory tract, so these are not ideal for active screening.

CBIC Infection Control Reference

The CDC and APIC guidelines emphasize rectal or peri-rectal swabbing as the most effective active surveillance method for CRE detection.

## **NEW QUESTION # 120**

An adult with an incomplete vaccination history presents with an uncontrollable, rapid and violent cough, fever, and runny nose. Healthcare personnel should suspect

- A. Adenovirus.
- B. Rhinovirus.
- C. Bronchitis.
- D. Pertussis.

#### Answer: D

#### Explanation:

The correct answer is A, "Pertussis," as healthcare personnel should suspect this condition based on the presented symptoms and the patient's incomplete vaccination history. According to the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) guidelines, pertussis, caused by the bacterium Bordetella pertussis, is characterized by an initial phase of mild respiratory symptoms (e.g., runny nose, low-grade fever) followed by a distinctive uncontrollable, rapid, and violent cough, often described as a "whooping" cough.

This presentation is particularly concerning in adults with incomplete vaccination histories, as the pertussis vaccine's immunity (e.g., DTaP or Tdap) wanes over time, increasing susceptibility (CBIC Practice Analysis,

2022, Domain I: Identification of Infectious Disease Processes, Competency 1.1 - Identify infectious disease processes). Pertussis is highly contagious and poses a significant risk in healthcare settings, necessitating prompt suspicion and isolation to prevent transmission.

Option B (rhinovirus) typically causes the common cold with symptoms like runny nose, sore throat, and mild cough, but it lacks the violent, paroxysmal cough characteristic of pertussis. Option C (bronchitis) may involve cough and fever, often due to viral or bacterial infection, but it is not typically associated with the rapid and violent cough pattern or linked to vaccination status in the same way as pertussis. Option D (adenovirus) can cause respiratory symptoms, including cough and fever, but it is more commonly associated with conjunctivitis or pharyngitis and does not feature the hallmark violent cough of pertussis.

The suspicion of pertussis aligns with CBIC's emphasis on recognizing infectious disease patterns to initiate timely infection control measures, such as droplet precautions and prophylaxis for exposed individuals (CBIC Practice Analysis, 2022, Domain III: Infection Prevention and Control, Competency 3.2 - Implement measures to prevent transmission of infectious agents). Early identification is critical, especially in healthcare settings, to protect vulnerable patients and staff, and the incomplete vaccination history supports this differential diagnosis given pertussis's vaccine-preventable nature (CDC Pink Book: Pertussis, 2021).

References: CBIC Practice Analysis, 2022, Domain I: Identification of Infectious Disease Processes, Competency 1.1 - Identify infectious disease processes; Domain III: Infection Prevention and Control, Competency 3.2 - Implement measures to prevent transmission of infectious agents. CDC Pink Book:

Pertussis, 2021.

### **NEW QUESTION # 121**

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