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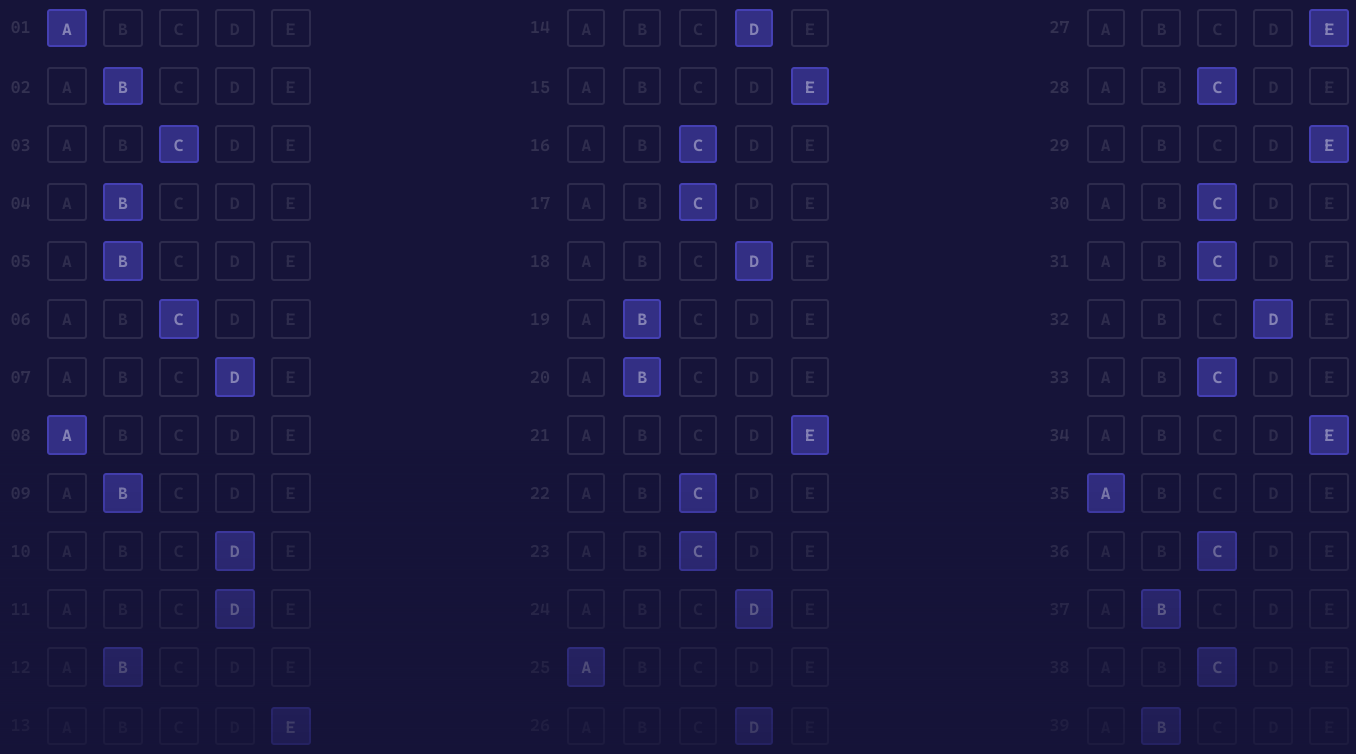

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Certification Board of Infection Control & Epidemiology, Inc. (CBIC®)

CIC

Certification In Infection Control

EDITION	QUESTIONS	FORMAT
Demo	9	Limited Edition PDF

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Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for Certification Board of Infection Control & Epidemiology, Inc. (CBIC®) `CIC`, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, `CIC`
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

An infection preventionist is reviewing the core activities that define the scope of infection control practice. Which of the following is included as a fundamental activity of an infection prevention and control program?

A Conducting marketing campaigns to promote the healthcare organization's brand

B Surveillance for healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and their outcomes

C Negotiating insurance reimbursement contracts with third-party payers

D Performing individual patient billing and coding for clinical encounters

ANSWER B

WHY Surveillance for healthcare-associated infections and their outcomes is one of the foundational activities of an infection prevention and control program. Marketing, insurance contract negotiation, and billing/coding are administrative functions outside the scope of infection control practice.

QUESTION 2 SINGLE CHOICE

A hospital is implementing contact precautions for a patient infected with a multidrug-resistant organism. Which link in the chain of infection is primarily being interrupted by requiring healthcare personnel to don gowns and gloves before entering the patient's room?

A Susceptible host susceptibility factors

B Reservoir of the infectious agent

C Portal of exit from the reservoir

D Mode of transmission between hosts

ANSWER D

WHY PPE such as gowns and gloves interrupts the mode of transmission (contact transmission) between hosts. The portal of exit refers to how the agent leaves the reservoir, which is interrupted at the source rather than at the route of transmission. Gowns and gloves specifically block transfer via contact from patient or environment to the healthcare worker.

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QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

According to standard hand-hygiene guidance endorsed by infection control practice, which of the following actions is required of healthcare personnel regarding hand hygiene?

A Use alcohol-based hand rub only after removing gloves, regardless of patient contact

B Perform hand hygiene before and after direct patient contact, even when gloves are worn

C Perform hand hygiene only when hands are visibly soiled with blood or body fluids

D Rinse hands with water alone after patient contact if no soap is available

ANSWER B

WHY Hand hygiene must be performed before and after direct patient contact, including when gloves are used, because gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene. Alcohol-based hand rub is the preferred method for hands that are not visibly soiled, and water alone is not adequate.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

The infection preventionist is auditing environmental cleaning practices on a medical-surgical unit. Which finding represents the greatest breach in environmental cleaning and disinfection principles?

A Cleaning cloths are folded and used until visibly soiled before being replaced

B High-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected on a defined schedule using an EPA-registered disinfectant per manufacturer instructions for contact time

C The disinfectant is applied and the surface is wiped dry before the manufacturer's required contact time has elapsed

D Carts used for environmental cleaning are dedicated and stored separately from clean supply carts

ANSWER C

WHY Disinfectants must remain on the surface for the manufacturer's full contact (dwell) time to achieve the claimed level of microbial kill. Wiping the surface dry early renders the process ineffective. The other options describe acceptable or recommended practices.

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QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

An infection preventionist is calculating a central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) rate for an intensive care unit. Which of the following is the appropriate denominator?

A Total number of patients admitted to the unit during the month

B Total number of central line-associated bloodstream infections identified during the month

C Total number of central line days during the surveillance period

D Total number of patient days during the surveillance period

ANSWER C

WHY The CLABSI rate is calculated as the number of CLABSIs divided by central line days (multiplied by 1000). Using admissions or patient days as the denominator would yield an inaccurate device-specific rate and is not the standard surveillance metric.

QUESTION 6 SINGLE CHOICE

An infection preventionist is collaborating with the antimicrobial stewardship program to reduce the emergence of multidrug-resistant organisms. Which intervention best reflects the contribution of stewardship to infection prevention?

A Restricting antibiotic use to narrow-spectrum agents based on culture and susceptibility results whenever appropriate

B Increasing empiric use of broad-spectrum antibiotics for all febrile patients on admission

C Discontinuing antibiotics only after a fixed 30-day course regardless of clinical response

D Prohibiting the use of any oral antibiotic in hospitalized patients

ANSWER A

WHY Stewardship interventions such as promoting appropriate narrow-spectrum therapy guided by culture results reduce selective pressure that drives resistance. Broad-spectrum empiric therapy, fixed long durations, and blanket oral prohibitions are not evidence-based stewardship strategies.

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QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

An infection preventionist suspects an outbreak of surgical site infections following cardiac surgery over the past two months. Which step should be undertaken first as part of the outbreak investigation?

A Develop a final written report for distribution to the public

B Define a case and confirm that the observed rate exceeds the expected baseline

C Implement permanent changes to the hospital's architectural design

D Notify external news media about the suspected outbreak

ANSWER B

WHY An outbreak investigation begins by establishing a case definition and verifying through surveillance that an increase above the expected baseline has truly occurred. Premature reporting, permanent design changes, or media notification should not precede verification and analysis.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

An infection preventionist with limited resources must prioritize activities. Which of the following best reflects appropriate prioritization based on risk to patients?

A Focus first on low-volume ambulatory services because they are easiest to survey

B Focus first on high-risk, high-volume procedures and populations where the potential for harm from healthcare-associated infection is greatest

C Focus first on areas with no identified infections in the past year

D Focus first on facilities where administrative leadership has requested infection control presence

ANSWER B

WHY Risk-based prioritization directs infection prevention resources to high-risk, high-volume activities and populations where HAIs are most likely and most consequential. Prioritizing low-risk areas, areas with no events, or areas chosen for non-clinical reasons does not align with risk-based program planning.

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QUESTION 9 SINGLE CHOICE

An infection preventionist is reviewing the chain of infection for a cluster of Legionella pneumophila cases on a medical unit. Which reservoir is the most likely source of this organism in a healthcare setting?

A Skin flora of colonized healthcare personnel

B Contaminated water from the facility's cooling tower and plumbing system

C Blood products from a donor with bacteremia

D Dry environmental surfaces in patient rooms

ANSWER B

WHY Legionella pneumophila is an aquatic organism that proliferates in warm water systems, including cooling towers, hot water tanks, and large plumbing systems common in healthcare facilities. Transmission typically occurs through inhalation of aerosolized water droplets (e.g., from showers or cooling towers), not from person-to-person contact, blood, or dry surfaces. The other options describe reservoirs not associated with Legionella transmission.

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