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38	A	B	C	D	E
39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA)

CCSVP

Certified Central Service Vendor Partner

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) **CCSVP**, 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, **CCSVP**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

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

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

A vendor representative enters the Central Service (CS) department to discuss a new sterilization product. According to HSPA's ethical guidelines, what is the most appropriate action for the representative before interacting with clinical staff about the product?

- ☐ A Provide product samples directly to the surgical team to encourage rapid adoption.
- ☒ B Check in with the designated CS department contact and follow the facility's vendor access policy before any product discussion.
- ☐ C Wait in the hallway and approach any staff member who passes by to introduce the product.
- ☐ D Schedule an in-service in an operating room during a procedure to demonstrate its clinical use.

ANSWER B

WHY Vendor partners must respect the facility's access policies and work through designated department contacts. Approaching staff directly, distributing samples without authorization, or entering procedural areas uninvited violates HSPA ethical standards and typical hospital vendor management policies.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Which type of steam sterilizer cycle is most appropriate for processing lumened instruments that require extended exposure times to ensure steam penetration?

- ☐ A Gravity displacement cycle at 121°C (250°F) for 15 minutes.
- ☐ B Pre-vacuum (porous load) cycle at 134°C (273°F) for 3 to 4 minutes.
- ☒ C Pre-vacuum (porous load) cycle at 132°C (270°F) for 4 minutes with an extended exposure parameter.
- ☐ D Flash sterilization cycle at 132°C (270°F) for 3 minutes for an unwrapped instrument.

ANSWER C

WHY Lumened instruments benefit from pre-vacuum cycles that remove air from the lumen before steam penetration, and an extended exposure time at 132°C ensures adequate steam contact throughout the lumen. Flash cycles are for urgent, unwrapped processing only, and a 3- to 4-minute exposure without pre-vacuum would not guarantee lumen penetration.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Which personal protective equipment (PPE) is required for personnel performing manual cleaning of contaminated surgical instruments in a sink?

- ☒ **A** A fluid-resistant gown, face shield or mask with eye protection, utility gloves, and a fluid-resistant head cover when splashing is anticipated.
- ☐ **B** Sterile surgical gloves and a sterile gown only.
- ☐ **C** Exam gloves and a lab coat.
- ☐ **D** Only a face shield and exam gloves.

ANSWER A

WHY ANSI/AAMI ST79 and CDC/HICPAC guidance require fluid-resistant attire because manual cleaning produces splashes and aerosols. Sterile gloves/gowns are not required for decontamination; exam gloves and a lab coat provide inadequate protection against percutaneous injury and splash exposure.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

What is the recommended maximum time frame for point-of-use pre-cleaning of instruments following a surgical procedure, when delayed processing is not feasible?

- ☐ **A** Instruments should not be pre-treated at the point of use.
- ☒ **B** Within 15 minutes of the end of the procedure, with the instruments kept moist.
- ☐ **C** Within 60 minutes, and only if transported dry.
- ☐ **D** Pre-cleaning must occur only in the decontamination area.

ANSWER B

WHY Best practice and AAMI ST79 recommend keeping instruments moist and beginning point-of-use pre-cleaning as soon as possible after use—commonly within 15 minutes—to prevent drying of bioburden. A 60-minute window is too long without moisture, and dry transport increases the difficulty of subsequent cleaning.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

Which organization publishes ST79, the comprehensive guide to steam sterilization and sterility assurance in healthcare facilities that informs vendor partner product claims?

- ☐ A The Joint Commission (TJC).
- ☒ B The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI).
- ☐ C The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- ☐ D The Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

ANSWER B

WHY ANSI/AAMI ST79 is published by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI). While the CDC, FDA, and TJC reference sterilization standards, the document itself is an AAMI consensus standard.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

Which packaging material is most appropriate for steam sterilization of a heavy instrument tray and provides adequate protection during handling and storage?

- ☐ A A single layer of polyethylene film.
- ☒ B A double-wrapped configuration using two layers of FDA-cleared medical-grade wrap (e.g., sequential wrap or pouch).
- ☐ C Unsealed muslin cloth.
- ☐ D A resealable plastic food-storage bag.

ANSWER B

WHY AAMI ST79 requires sterilization packaging that is FDA-cleared and validated for the sterilization method. A double-wrapped configuration using medical-grade wrap or a pouch-in-pouch system provides microbial barrier protection and the strength needed for heavy trays. Polyethylene, unsealed muslin, and food bags are not validated sterile barrier systems.

QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

Which monitoring tool is the only accepted method to confirm that sterilization conditions lethal to highly resistant spores were actually achieved inside a load?

- ☐ A Class I (external) chemical indicator tape.
- ☐ B Class IV multi-parameter chemical indicator.
- ☐ C Mechanical printout of cycle time and temperature.
- ☒ D Biological indicator (BI) containing spores of *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* for steam.

ANSWER D

WHY Biological indicators, especially those containing *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* for steam sterilization, directly measure the lethality of the cycle by demonstrating the inactivation of highly resistant spores. Chemical and mechanical indicators are adjuncts but cannot, by themselves, prove sterilization occurred.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

An endoscope is processed using an automated endoscope reprocessor (AER) with ortho-phthalaldehyde (OPA). What is the appropriate exposure time per the manufacturer's instructions for use when used at the standard concentration?

- ☒ A 20 to 30 minutes at 25°C, depending on the device and OPA label claims.
- ☐ B 45 minutes at 20°C.
- ☐ C 5 minutes at 25°C.
- ☐ D 60 minutes at 37°C.

ANSWER A

WHY OPA high-level disinfection is typically performed at room temperature (around 20–25°C) for 20 to 30 minutes, following both the disinfectant manufacturer's and the endoscope manufacturer's instructions. Other combinations of time and temperature either exceed the disinfectant label claim or fall short of validated disinfection.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

A sterile processing department is considering a new instrument tracking system. Which action by the vendor representative best demonstrates a compliant, value-added role for a CCSVP partner?

- ☐ A Providing independent clinical data on patient outcomes from competitor facilities using similar systems
- ☒ B Offering in-service education on the proper use, care, and maintenance of the company's products in accordance with manufacturer instructions for use (IFU)
- ☐ C Recommending changes to the facility's sterility assurance protocols based on the vendor's industry experience
- ☐ D Training CS technicians on a competitor's product line so the department can make an informed purchasing decision

ANSWER B

WHY Vendor partners are expected to support the products they sell, including providing education aligned with the manufacturer's Instructions for Use (IFU). Recommending changes to the facility's protocols (A, C) falls outside the vendor partner role and crosses into clinical/practice decision-making. Training on a competitor's product (D) is also outside the vendor partner's scope.