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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

International Board of Specialty Certifications (IBSC)

DICO-L

Designated Infection Control Officer (Live) Exam

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for International Board of Specialty Certifications (IBSC) **DICO-L**, 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, **DICO-L**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

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

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is a primary responsibility of the Designated Infection Control Officer (DICO) under an agency's infection control program?

- ☐ A Performing all on-scene decontamination of hazardous materials
- ☒ B Developing agency exposure control and post-exposure protocols and serving as a resource for communicable disease exposures
- ☐ C Conducting criminal investigations of employees who fail to follow PPE protocols
- ☐ D Approving all disciplinary actions related to infection control violations

ANSWER B

WHY The DICO's primary role is to develop, manage, and advise on the agency's infection control program, including exposure control plans, post-exposure medical follow-up, and acting as a subject-matter resource for communicable disease exposures. On-scene decontamination, criminal investigation, and disciplinary authority fall outside the DICO role.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Standard precautions, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), apply to which of the following body fluids and substances?

- ☐ A Only blood and visibly bloody fluids
- ☐ B Only fluids from patients with confirmed communicable diseases
- ☒ C Blood, all body fluids (except sweat), non-intact skin, and mucous membranes regardless of suspected infection status
- ☐ D Only fluids collected during invasive procedures

ANSWER C

WHY Standard precautions combine the older 'universal precautions' and 'body substance isolation' into a single approach. They apply to blood; all body fluids, secretions, and excretions (except sweat); non-intact skin; and mucous membranes — regardless of whether infection is suspected.

QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

Following a documented needlestick exposure to a source patient whose hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV status are all unknown, what is the immediate first action the DICO should verify has been taken?

- ☐ A Administration of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to the exposed employee
- ☐ B Immediate reporting to law enforcement of the source patient
- ☒ C Washing the exposure site with soap and water and initiating the agency's exposure incident reporting process
- ☐ D Termination of the exposed employee pending investigation

ANSWER C

WHY The first verified action following a percutaneous exposure is immediate wound care (washing the site with soap and water, flushing mucous membranes with water) and timely initiation of the exposure incident report so that source testing and medical evaluation can proceed. PEP decisions are made later by the evaluating clinician based on source results and risk assessment.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

Under typical public health regulations, which of the following communicable diseases must be reported by the diagnosing provider or facility to the local or state public health authority within a short, prescribed timeframe (often 24 hours or less)?

- ☐ A Seasonal allergic rhinitis
- ☒ B Confirmed measles (rubeola) case
- ☐ C Common cold (rhinovirus)
- ☐ D Mild gastroenteritis treated at home with oral rehydration

ANSWER B

WHY Confirmed measles (rubeola) is a Class A / immediately or urgently notifiable condition in essentially all U.S. jurisdictions and must be reported to public health authorities — typically by phone within 24 hours (and sooner in many jurisdictions) — to enable outbreak containment. The other listed conditions are not routinely reportable in this timeframe.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is the correct hierarchy for processing reusable medical and patient-care equipment, in the order in which the methods must be selected?

- ☐ A Sterilization, then disinfection, then cleaning
- ☐ B Disinfection, then sterilization, then cleaning
- ☒ C Cleaning, followed by the appropriate level of disinfection or sterilization based on Spaulding classification
- ☐ D Cleaning is optional if high-level disinfection is performed

ANSWER C

WHY Cleaning — physical removal of soil and bioburden — must always occur before any disinfection or sterilization process; organic material left on instruments can inactivate disinfectants and compromise sterilization. The level of subsequent microbial kill (high-level disinfection vs. sterilization) is then determined by the Spaulding classification of the device: critical = sterilization, semi-critical = high-level disinfection, non-critical = low- or intermediate-level disinfection.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

An employee develops active pulmonary tuberculosis. Which mode of transmission is of greatest concern for coworkers in an enclosed, poorly ventilated workspace?

- ☐ A Vector-borne transmission
- ☐ B Indirect contact transmission via shared equipment
- ☒ C Airborne transmission of droplet nuclei
- ☐ D Sexual transmission

ANSWER C

WHY *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* spreads almost exclusively by airborne transmission of small (1–5 µm) droplet nuclei that remain suspended in air and can travel long distances. Co-workers in an enclosed, poorly ventilated environment are at heightened risk, which is why TB requires an airborne infection isolation room, N95/NIOSH-certified respirators for staff, and notification of public health authorities.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

During an outbreak investigation, the DICO's primary epidemiological task is to:

- ☐ A Assign criminal blame to the first identified case (index case)
- ☒ B Identify cases, characterize the outbreak by person/place/time, and implement control measures to interrupt transmission
- ☐ C Publish findings in a peer-reviewed journal before any internal action
- ☐ D Wait until the outbreak is over before documenting any cases

ANSWER B

WHY The DICO participates as a key member of the outbreak response team. Core epidemiologic tasks include case finding and confirmation, descriptive epidemiology (person, place, time), hypothesis generation about the source and route of transmission, and rapid implementation of control measures. Blame assignment, publication, or retrospective-only documentation are not appropriate outbreak-investigation priorities.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standard requires employers to establish a written Exposure Control Plan. Which of the following elements is mandated for inclusion in that plan?

- ☐ A A list of all employees' home addresses
- ☒ B Employee job categories and tasks/procedures in which occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials can be reasonably anticipated
- ☐ C The names of all local hospitals and pharmacies
- ☐ D A marketing plan for agency services

ANSWER B

WHY 29 CFR 1910.1030(c)(1)(i) requires the Exposure Control Plan to include, among other elements: a list of job classifications in which some employees have occupational exposure, and a list of tasks and procedures in which exposure occurs. It must also include methods of compliance, training, recordkeeping, and procedures for evaluating exposure incidents.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

When responding to a call involving a patient with a suspected infectious disease that warrants airborne precautions, which combination of PPE and actions is most appropriate for prehospital responders?

- ☐ A Standard surgical mask for the patient only; no PPE change required between patients
- ☒ B N95 or equivalent respirator for the responder, surgical mask on the patient (if tolerated), and notification of the receiving facility in advance
- ☐ C No PPE because infectious disease patients do not require it in transit
- ☐ D Only gloves for the responder regardless of symptoms

ANSWER B

WHY For suspected airborne infectious disease, responders wear an N95 (or higher) respirator that has been fit-tested, the patient wears a surgical mask if it can be tolerated without compromising care, and the receiving hospital is notified in advance so an airborne infection isolation room can be prepared. Gloves alone are insufficient for airborne pathogens.