

# The Examination Process - Computer-Based Testing

## Certification Board in Infection Control [www.cbic.org](http://www.cbic.org)

### A Webber Training Teleclass

## The Examination Process Computer Based Testing

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## Objectives

- Review the process of taking the computer based exam
- Provide points on application specific to international candidates
- Advise examinees about the structure of exam questions and answer options

*We know what you'd really like us to tell you...however*



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## The computer based exam

- First exam is always the higher security computer based exam
- The recertification exam (SARE) is paper based at this time
- Technology to mark a paper based exam is becoming extinct
- SARE will be computerized in future

## So....you have decided

- that you want to write the exam....or you are at least **thinking** about it

First of all.....



## The CBIC Handbook

- A goldmine of information
- Download it from website [www.cbic.org](http://www.cbic.org)
- A hard copy can be requested
- Read it carefully



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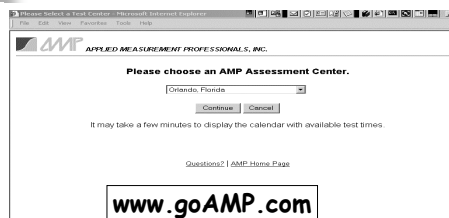
#### Application Process

##### Hard copy method

- Fill in application
- Will receive notification of your eligibility to test
- Make appointment within 90 days at test centre once you receive your eligibility to write from CBIC.
- You can choose the time of year to take the test



For U.S. Applicants, there is an online process option too.



[www.goAMP.com](http://www.goAMP.com)

The available testing dates and times at the Orlando, Florida test center appear in blue. Please click on a time to select it.

June 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12 1:30 PM	13 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	14 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	15
16	17 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	18 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	19	20 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	21 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	22
23	24 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	25 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	26 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	27 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	28 9:00 AM 1:30 PM	29
30						

Next Month

Please verify the assessment center, examination date and time you have selected. If it is correct, press the "Continue" button to schedule this appointment. If it is incorrect, use the "Back" button on your browser to change your selection.

Program:	National Board for Respiratory Care CRT Examination
Examination:	CRT Examination
Test Center:	Orlando, Florida
Exam Date:	Friday, June 14, 2002
Exam Time:	1:30 PM
Exam Length (Hours):	3

Continue Cancel

Your examination appointment has been successfully scheduled. Your confirmation number is SC263016. Please print this screen for your records.

Program:	National Board for Respiratory Care CRT Examination
Examination:	CRT Examination
Test Center:	Orlando, Florida
Exam Date:	Friday, June 14, 2002
Exam Time:	1:30 PM
Exam Length (Hours):	3
Test Center Address:	648 S. US Highway 17-92 Largo, FL Located in the Longwood Lakes Plaza Shopping Center four miles east of Exit 49 (SR434) from Interstate 4. Two blocks south of the intersection of SR-434 and US 17-92. (The office is located on the West side of US 17-92, behind a Wendy's.)
Directions:	

#### Scheduling Summary

- Application process remains similar
- Scheduling Options: phone or web
- Schedule 3 days in advance of test date (select your test center, date and time)
- Rescheduling possible:
  - 3 days in advance
  - One opportunity
- ADA accommodations available

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#### How many testing sites?

- 140 Assessment Centres in US and Canada
- Exam available in 30 countries including US



#### International Candidates

- Manual application
- Cannot book an exam date on line
- There is a \$35.00 fee
- Will receive mark in approximately 3 weeks



#### Taking the test

- Arrive in plenty of time
- Late comers will be turned away if more than 15 minutes past the time of the appointment
- No paper is allowed. Scrap paper will be provided and must be returned at the end of the exam
- Non-programmable calculator is allowed
- You will be given some practice time with the mouse and computer

#### Taking the test

- Must have your letter with you and photo ID
- So what does the exam look like?  
  
Practice Exam – mirror image – gives you practice with the format  
Available for purchase from CBIC  
  
The questions will be different!

#### Taking the test

- 3 hours to write the computerized exam
- US candidates will receive a "pass" or "fail" notice when the exam is finished.
- International candidates  
The mark will arrive in the mail 2-3 weeks following the exam.



#### CIC

- Why should I consider taking the CIC exam??  
  
There are a number of reasons....

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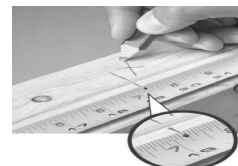
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#### CIC

- Recognition and marketability
- Professional development
- Personal satisfaction
- Regulation – it may be required to keep your position
- It provides an objective measure of competence to employers and the public

#### Licensure versus competency

- Licensure assures minimal competency to practice in a field,
- Certification indicates mastery of a defined body of knowledge



#### Competency

- CBIC does not believe that continuing education credits measure competency
- Ongoing process that requires repeat measurement

#### Competency

- Incorporates performance of several related tasks and/or requires the use of a variety of knowledge domains/cognitive levels

#### How do we measure competency?

- Through a comprehensive examination that measures the skills and abilities expected of an ICP that could be working in a variety of settings.

#### Validity of the Certification Examinations

- Developed under the guidance of Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), - an independent testing agency.
- AMP oversees scoring of the exam.
- Each test item undergoes both expert and statistical scrutiny before use.
- Passing scores are calculated to compensate for item difficulty & differences between exams
- Acknowledged by the Joint Commission as an element of an effective infection control program.



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#### Competency

- There is no way to guarantee competence in any field.
- We can only measure factors that may indicate competence



#### However...

- We would like all competent candidates to be able to successfully pass the exams- there is no intention to create trick questions.
- There is a practice requirement.
- There is a training requirement.
- Earning the CIC credential says something about the practitioner.



#### Certification & Recertification



- ❖ If you achieved your CIC in 1985.....
- ❖ Is it sustainable over the course of your career?
- ❖ Does it ensure competence to deal with today's ICP requirements?

#### Certification & Recertification

- ❖ **CBIC believes that:**

**Continuing education does NOT demonstrate competence**


**Demonstrating competence is an ongoing process requiring repeat measurement**

#### Driving Forces


- Public awareness of healthcare associated infections
- Informed consumers and public expectation of healthcare
- The public expects health care providers to be competent
- Emphasis on patient and occupational safety

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**What is important to test?** 

- Knowledge alone does not necessarily imply competent practice, or successful performance on the job

**What are we testing?** 

- Memorization? Regurgitation?
- Evaluates declarative knowledge:  
the trivial  
the superfluous  
the irrelevant
- Minimizes how knowledge is used in the job environment

**Cognitive Levels**

- **Declarative/Recall** - retention of knowledge  
assess static concepts  
answer will not change  
ability to use knowledge on the job is not assessed

**Recall**

- Ex. What is the capital of Massachusetts?
- Ex. What are the steps in outbreak management?
- The answers will not change – you either know it or you don't

**Cognitive Levels**

- Procedural/Application – dynamic or variable
- Evaluates the ability to describe the performance of given activities under certain conditions
- Ex. Determine the appropriate next step, given a task scenario

**Application/Procedural**

Example:

- A patient is admitted with a post-operative wound infection. MRSA is cultured from the wound. What type of precautions are required for this patient?

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### Analysis/Performance

- Ramps it up a notch
- Analysis questions best for measuring competence - measures factors that indicate competence
- Ex. Evaluate the ability to actually perform given activities under certain conditions

### Analysis

- An ICP is conducting a "best practice" quality improvement project in a LTC unit and is reviewing the occurrence of conjunctivitis over a 4 year period.

Year	Number of Infections
04	5
05	4
06	16
07	12

### Analysis

- What is the best interpretation of this data?

- Ⓐ) Analysis of absolute numbers of infections is misleading.
- Ⓑ) There is a problem as the number of cases increased in two out of four years.
- Ⓒ) Literature indicates that there is no issue with this number of cases.
- Ⓓ) Eye infections are uncommon in the elderly.

### Ok..on to the test questions

- What makes a good question?

### Good question construction

- A well constructed question:
  - Follows the normal rules of grammar
  - Clearly states the question
  - Avoids negative wording
  - Uses clear and simple language
  - Eliminates irrelevant clues

### Good question construction

- Are the stem and options grammatically correct?
- Are they clearly written?
- Is the stem too long?
- Can it be shortened without altering the actual question?

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**Consider this question.....**

- A patient has been admitted to one of the General Medicine nursing units in your hospital. The person is homeless, a known drug abuser, and has been admitted for investigation of a chronic cough and weight loss. A PPD has been ordered.

**cont'd**

- The test is administered in the following manner:
  - a) Subcutaneous
  - b) Intramuscular
  - c) Intradermal
  - d) Orally

**What is wrong with the previous question?**

- Do you need all the information in the stem to answer the question?
- What is the question that is being asked?



**Revised version**

- The appropriate administration route of a TST (tuberculin skin test) is:
  - a) Subcutaneous
  - b) Intrathecal
  - c) Intramuscular
  - d) Intradermal

**To Contact CBIC**

- Website: [www.CBIC.org](http://www.CBIC.org)
- *Please be advised that CBIC does not produce or endorse educational offerings such as study courses, study guides or "flashcards."*
- *We take no credit or responsibility for the contents thereof.*



**In summary**

- We've reviewed the process of taking the computer based exam
- Provided points on application specific to international candidates
- Advised examinees about the structure of exam questions and answer options
- Any questions???



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<b>THE NEXT FEW TELECLASSES</b>	
17 Jul. 08	(Free Teleclass) Community-Associated MRSA - What's Up & What's Next Speaker: Dr. Rachel Gorwitz, CDC
22 Jul. 08	(Free British Teleclass) Progress Report from the Chief Nursing Officer Speaker: Christine Beasley, British Department of Health
7 Aug. 08	(Free Teleclass) Disinfection & Sterilization - Current Issues & New Research Speaker: Dr. William Rutala, University of North Carolina
14 Aug. 08	(Free Teleclass) Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamases and Infection Control Speaker: Prof. David Patterson Broadcast live from New Zealand infection control conference
04 Sep. 08	We Get the Infection Control We Deserve - How to Deserve the Best Speaker: Gary Phillips, NorthWest Training & Development
11 Sep. 08	LTC - Surveillance in Long Term Care Speaker: Mary Andrus, CDC

[www.webbertraining.com/schedule1.php](http://www.webbertraining.com/schedule1.php)

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