

Secrets of the CBIC Test Committee
Linda B. Laxton, Sheila MacDonald, Sharon Krystofiak
A Webber Training Teleclass

CBIC
CERTIFICATION BOARD
OF INFECTION CONTROL
AND EPIDEMIOLOGY, INC.

**Secrets of the CBIC
Test Committee**

Part I

**Overview & Committee
Structure**

Linda B. Laxton, RN, BSN, CIC
CBIC President, 2006

Hosted by Paul Webber
paul@webbertraining.com


A Webber Training Teleclass www.webbertraining.com

CBIC Bylaws Mission

“ The CBIC, Inc. is a voluntary autonomous multidisciplinary board, which provides direction for and administers the certification process for infection control professionals. The mission of CBIC is to develop and administer a certification process designed to measure knowledge mastery of infection prevention and control and applied epidemiology.”

**CBIC's Stance on
Recertification**

- CBIC agrees with the growing body of evidence that:
 - Continuing education does NOT demonstrate competence
 - Demonstrating competence is an ongoing process requiring repeat measurement



**Is an ICP
certified in 1984
competent to
deal with today's
IPC
requirements?**

CBIC Board of Directors

- 13-14 Directors
- Composition requires at least
 - 1 medical doctor
 - 1 medical technologist or medical microbiologist with a BS degree
 - 1 master's or higher degree in education
 - 4 registered nurses
 - 1 Canadian ICP
 - 1 ICP from non acute care setting
 - 1 ICP from LTC
 - 1 Consumer director
- All Directors except Consumer MUST be certified

CBIC Test Committee

- Committee of the CBIC BOD
- Directs and coordinates with the testing agency, all activities related to the development of the certification exam.
- Includes CBT & SARE
- Meets 2-3 times/year

Secrets of the CBIC Test Committee

Linda B. Laxton, Sheila MacDonald, Sharon Krystofiak
A Webber Training Teleclass

CBIC Test Committee Composition

- Established by bylaws
- 7-8 members
- Must include:
 - President Elect
 - MD
 - Med tech/microbiologist
 - At least 1 RN
 - Canadian Director
 - Director with masters in Education

How does the Test Committee know what to include in the exam?

■ The Practice Analysis (PA)

"This process involves systematic collection of information that describes behaviors and activities performed by occupants of the job in question."

Goldrick, et al. Practice analysis for infection control and epidemiology in the new millennium. AJIC 30:8, December 2002

CBIC PA Purpose:

- To determine and comprehensively describe the functions of the ICP role
- To determine the core functions that should be assessed in a certification examination

CBIC PA, cont.

- Developed by a panel of expert ICPs
- Email survey to practicing ICPs
- Conducted every 5 years to reflect changes in practice
- Based on North American practice standards (US & Canada)

PA Results

- Statistically analyzed to determine core elements that are essential for an ICP practicing with 2 years experience
- Used to develop the content outline for the certification exam

Major Content Categories

- I. Identification of Infectious Disease Processes
- II. Surveillance & Epidemiologic Investigation
- III. Preventing/Controlling Transmission of Infectious Agents
- IV. Program Management & Communication
- V. Education and Research
- VI. Infection Control Aspects of Employee Health

Secrets of the CBIC Test Committee

Linda B. Laxton, Sheila MacDonald, Sharon Krystofiak
A Webber Training Teleclass



Part II

The Questions

Sheila MacDonald
CBIC Test Committee Member

Role of Testing Agency

- Work in conjunction with AMP: Applied Measurement Professionals
- AMP provides professional psychometric services for CBIC
- Conducts statistical item and test performance analysis

The Questions

- Exam consists of 150 questions
15 are "pre-test" questions
new questions that are being "test run" to see how they perform
- The candidate is, therefore, marked on 135 questions

Scrutiny of the Test Questions

- New questions are developed on a continuous basis
- Every question is scrutinized by the Test Committee before being placed on a test
- Ensure they meet the content outline (developed from Practice Analysis)



Scrutiny of the Test Questions

- Each section of the content outline has a defined number of questions
- Each question must have a reference from the reference list



Scrutiny of the Test Questions

- Examine every portion of the question:

Stem
Options



Secrets of the CBIC Test Committee
Linda B. Laxton, Sheila MacDonald, Sharon Krystofiak
A Webber Training Teleclass

Stem & Options

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

Stem & Options

- Have irrelevant clues been eliminated?
- Has negative wording been avoided?
- Does the content classification fit with the question?
- Is the reference correct?

Sample Question (cont'd)

- 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.

Sample Question

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

**Sample Question –
scrutinized/revised by Test
Committee**

The appropriate administration route of a TST (tuberculin skin test) is:

- a) Subcutaneous
- b) Intrathecal
- c) Intramuscular
- d) Intradermal

Tips

- Prepare using the content outline
- Prepare using the listed references
- Prepare well in advance of the exam

Secrets of the CBIC Test Committee

Linda B. Laxton, Sheila MacDonald, Sharon Krystofiak
A Webber Training Teleclass



Part III

Now for the REAL secrets of the
CBIC Test Committee

Sharon Krystofiak, MS, MT, CIC
CBIC Test Committee Chair, 2006

Tests are based on **cognitive**
learning principles

- Recall
 - Can you complete the sentence without even seeing the options?
- Application
 - Take 2 pieces of information to reach the correct answer.
- Analysis
 - Highest level of knowledge measured.
 - Use 3 different pieces of information to determine the correct answer.



All exam questions are analyzed by
AMP professionals

- Was appropriate wording used?
- How many candidates got each question correct?
- Were all possible answers selected by a reasonable number of candidates?
- Did the "high scoring" candidates get it correct?



And somehow they come up with
statistics for each question



Each exam we put together must
be equivalent to previous tests

- Based on Content Outline
- Percentage of easy/difficult questions
- Approximate passing score
- Computer Based Test (CBT)- Timed exam
 - National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredited examination
- SARE- open book, not secure, therefore not NCCA accredited

Secrets of the CBIC Test Committee

Linda B. Laxton, Sheila MacDonald, Sharon Krystofiak
A Webber Training Teleclass

The REAL Secrets

- The exam is based on North American practice, but it is being taken all over the world!!
- We've eliminated references to national organizations, such as OSHA and JCAHO
- Questions should be applicable to the practice of infection prevention and control throughout the world.



There are NO Trick questions

- The purpose of the exam is to measure your knowledge, not your test taking skills
- There are no special tricks- such as "if in doubt, pick A..."
- We are working to eliminate negatively worded and "all of the above EXCEPT..." type questions



But...
these scenarios don't apply to me...

- Re-read the question
- Drill down to what you are being asked to determine
- Try to put YOUR work situation into the same question



Example

- The nurse manager of your Burn Unit calls to report that the physicians noticed an increase in the number of *Acinetobacter baumannii* infections in the unit. What would you do to verify their concerns?



Take two

- The nurse manager of your Burn Unit calls to report that the physicians noticed an increase in the number of *Acinetobacter baumannii* infections in the unit. What would you do to verify their concerns?



Take Three



- The nurse manager of your _____ calls to report that the physicians noticed an increase in the number of _____ in the unit. What would you do to verify their concerns?
- Behavioral Health Unit URIs
- Rehab floor cases of diarrhea
- Dialysis Center patients with HCV

Secrets of the CBIC Test Committee
Linda B. Laxton, Sheila MacDonald, Sharon Krystofiak
A Webber Training Teleclass

These principles are applied throughout the profession!!



The exam is designed to measure your knowledge of these principles

- The CIC credential you receive when you successfully pass the exam means that you are marketable throughout the wonderful world of healthcare.
- Today, you may be working in a correctional facility
- Tomorrow, you may be offered a position in a large metropolitan health center



In case you're more afraid of the computer based part than the exam itself...

- Online Practice Exam is available
- Consists of 70 questions- many are retired from previous exams
- Familiarize yourself with the computerized testing process in your own setting
- Administration charge is \$50
- Available at www.cbic.org



CBIC Executive Office

- P.O. Box 19554
- Lenexa, Kansas 66285-9954
- Phone: 913-599-4174
- Fax: 913-599-5340
- E-mail: cbic-info@goAMP.com
- Web site: www.cbic.org

Applied Measurement Professionals Inc. provides certification organizations, governmental agencies, professional associations and private industry with innovative assessment and management solutions that focus on the appropriate application of technology and personal customer service.



On behalf of the entire CBIC Board,
Thank you!

Any questions?



Another 2006 CBIC Teleclass

October 12

The Changing Role of Infection Prevention and Control as Documented by the CBIC Practice Analysis (another free teleclass)

For the full teleclass schedule – www.webbertraining.com