CRCST Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Which of the following is used for time tracking of patient care equipment?

A. Barcode

B. RFID

C. UPC

D. QR Code

2. What timeframe typically defines a current asset?

A. Within six months

B. Within two years

C. Within one year

D. Within three years

3. A rigid container with broken tamper-evident seal indicates

A. Facility management

B. Clostridium difficile

C. The sterility of the package is questionable

D. Skin hooks

4. What should be done with sterilized items if the packaging is damaged?

A. Use them immediately

B. Re-sterilize the items

C. Discard the items

D. Store them anyway

5. Which type of hazard does poor posture exemplify?

A. Biological

B. Ergonomic

C. Physical

D. Chemical

SAMPLE

6. What information should not be included on a load log sheet?

- **A. Sterilizer temperature**
- **B. Package content description**
- **C. Cycle start time**
- **D. Position of packages in the sterilizer**

7. What is the purpose of date labeling on sterilized items?

- **A. To identify the brand of the item**
- **B. To keep track of when items were sterilized**
- **C. To ensure that they are cleaned regularly**
- **D. To measure the thickness of the item**

8. How often should biological indicators be tested in sterilization processes?

- **A. Monthly and every time a new sterilizer is used**
- **B. Weekly and every time a new sterilizer is used**
- **C. Daily**
- **D. Annually**

9. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable method of disinfection?

- **A. Hydrogen peroxide**
- **B. Rubbing alcohol on dirty surfaces**
- **C. Bleach**
- **D. Steam cleaning**

10. What does “biological indicator” mean in the context of sterilization?

- **A. A substance that neutralizes contaminants**
- **B. A test system containing viable microorganisms to demonstrate sterilization effectiveness**
- **C. A device used to measure temperature**
- **D. A method of cleaning surgical instruments**

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which of the following is used for time tracking of patient care equipment?

A. Barcode

B. RFID

C. UPC

D. QR Code

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) is used for time tracking of patient care equipment. RFID technology allows for the wireless tracking of equipment by using radio waves to transfer data from an RFID tag attached to the equipment to an RFID reader. This enables healthcare facilities to efficiently monitor the location and movement of patient care equipment, which is crucial for inventory control, preventing loss or theft, and ensuring equipment is properly maintained and available when needed. Barcode (Option A), UPC (Option C), and QR Code (Option D) are also types of identification technologies, but they are not specifically designed for time tracking of patient care equipment in the same way RFID technology is.

2. What timeframe typically defines a current asset?

A. Within six months

B. Within two years

C. Within one year

D. Within three years

A current asset is an asset that is expected to be converted into cash or used up within one year or within the normal operating cycle of a business, whichever is longer. This timeframe is important for assessing an organization's liquidity and ability to meet short-term obligations. Options A, B, and D exceed the typical timeframe for a current asset and are therefore incorrect.

3. A rigid container with broken tamper-evident seal indicates

A. Facility management

B. Clostridium difficile

C. The sterility of the package is questionable

D. Skin hooks

A rigid container with a broken tamper-evident seal indicates that the sterility of the package is questionable. Tamper-evident seals are put in place to ensure that the contents of a package remain sterile and uncontaminated. If the seal is broken, there is a risk that the contents have been compromised and may no longer be sterile. This is a critical concern in sterile processing as it could lead to the introduction of pathogens or contaminants into the sterile field. Therefore, it is essential to treat any package with a broken tamper-evident seal as potentially contaminated until further information is known. Facility management, Clostridium difficile, and skin hooks are not directly related to the presence of a broken tamper-evident seal on a rigid container.

SAMPLE

4. What should be done with sterilized items if the packaging is damaged?

A. Use them immediately

B. Re-sterilize the items

C. Discard the items

D. Store them anyway

When sterilized items have damaged packaging, they are considered compromised and should not be used. Sterilization ensures that items are free from microorganisms, but if the packaging is damaged, it may allow contamination to occur, which can pose a risk to patient safety when the items are eventually used. Therefore, the safest and most appropriate action is to discard the items to prevent any potential infection risks associated with using items that may no longer be sterile. This practice aligns with infection control protocols and maintains the highest standards of safety in healthcare settings.

5. Which type of hazard does poor posture exemplify?

A. Biological

B. Ergonomic

C. Physical

D. Chemical

Poor posture exemplifies an ergonomic hazard. Ergonomic hazards are related to the design of workspaces, equipment, and tasks that require repetitive movements, forceful exertions, awkward postures, and other factors that can lead to musculoskeletal injuries. In the context of sterile processing, maintaining proper posture is crucial to prevent ergonomic injuries such as back pain or repetitive strain injuries. Biological hazards are related to pathogens or infectious materials, physical hazards include slips, trips, and falls, and chemical hazards involve exposure to harmful substances.

6. What information should not be included on a load log sheet?

A. Sterilizer temperature

B. Package content description

C. Cycle start time

D. Position of packages in the sterilizer

The position of packages in the sterilizer should not be included on a load log sheet. Including this information is not necessary for tracking and documenting the sterilization process. The key details that should be recorded on a load log sheet typically include the sterilizer temperature, package content description, and cycle start time. These details are crucial for ensuring that the sterilization process is carried out correctly and that all necessary information is documented for future reference.

SAMPLE

7. What is the purpose of date labeling on sterilized items?

A. To identify the brand of the item

B. To keep track of when items were sterilized

C. To ensure that they are cleaned regularly

D. To measure the thickness of the item

The purpose of date labeling on sterilized items is crucial for tracking the sterilization process. By indicating when items were sterilized, the date label helps ensure that the items are used within their effective shelf life, as sterilized items can be impacted by factors like environmental conditions and time. This practice promotes patient safety by confirming that only sterile items that are still within their validated sterility period are used in medical procedures. Proper date labeling helps facilitate inventory management, allowing staff to quickly identify both the age of the sterilized items and when they need to be reprocessed if they exceed their recommended shelf life. This practice is a fundamental aspect of sterile processing to maintain compliance with health standards and ensure the delivery of safe and effective care.

8. How often should biological indicators be tested in sterilization processes?

A. Monthly and every time a new sterilizer is used

B. Weekly and every time a new sterilizer is used

C. Daily

D. Annually

Biological indicators should be tested weekly and every time a new sterilizer is used to ensure the effectiveness of the sterilization process. This practice is crucial because biological indicators contain spores of highly resistant microorganisms, which are used to verify that the sterilization process can kill pathogens effectively. Testing weekly establishes a regular verification schedule, allowing for a consistent assessment of the sterilization process. This frequency helps to identify any issues or failures in sterilization that could compromise patient safety. Additionally, testing every time a new sterilizer is introduced allows for immediate confirmation that the new device is functioning correctly and achieving the necessary sterilization parameters. By adhering to this testing routine, healthcare facilities can maintain high standards of infection control and ensure that all sterile items are safe for patient use, thereby reducing the risk of infection and improving overall patient outcomes.

SAMPLE

9. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable method of disinfection?

A. Hydrogen peroxide

B. Rubbing alcohol on dirty surfaces

C. Bleach

D. Steam cleaning

Rubbing alcohol can be an effective disinfectant when used properly, but using it on dirty surfaces is not an acceptable method of disinfection. For disinfection to be effective, surfaces should first be cleaned to remove dirt, grease, and organic matter. If rubbing alcohol is applied to soiled surfaces, the presence of dirt can inhibit its effectiveness, preventing the alcohol from adequately disinfecting the area. Therefore, cleaning must precede disinfection to ensure that the antimicrobial properties of the disinfectant can act effectively. In contrast, hydrogen peroxide, bleach, and steam cleaning are recognized methods for disinfection when applied according to manufacturer instructions and guidelines. Hydrogen peroxide and bleach are chemical disinfectants that work well against a range of pathogens, while steam cleaning uses heat to eliminate microorganisms, making each of these methods effective under the right conditions.

10. What does “biological indicator” mean in the context of sterilization?

A. A substance that neutralizes contaminants

B. A test system containing viable microorganisms to demonstrate sterilization effectiveness

C. A device used to measure temperature

D. A method of cleaning surgical instruments

In the context of sterilization, a biological indicator refers to a test system that contains viable microorganisms specifically selected to challenge the sterilization process. These microorganisms are highly resistant to the sterilization method being evaluated, such as steam, ethylene oxide, or other means. The purpose of using a biological indicator is to confirm that the sterilization process was effective in killing these resistant organisms, thereby ensuring that the items sterilized are free from viable microorganisms and safe for use. When the biological indicator is subjected to the sterilization process, it's subsequently incubated. If growth of the microorganisms occurs, it indicates that the sterilization has failed, confirming that the process was not effective. On the other hand, if there is no growth, it demonstrates that the sterilization parameters were met, and the items are considered sterile. This method is crucial for routine monitoring of sterilizers in healthcare settings, ensuring patient safety and compliance with health regulations. Other options, such as neutralizing contaminants, measuring temperature, or methods of cleaning instruments, do not accurately reflect the specific role that biological indicators play in verifying the effectiveness of sterilization processes.

SAMPLE