

# CRNE



Keeping You Informed

# BULLETIN

*In June 2005, a new Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE) will be launched. This bulletin is the second of a series to keep you informed of the upcoming changes. It addresses implications for June 2004 to January 2005 CRNE writers.*

## CHANGES TO THE CRNE

The CRNE is changing. When the new CRNE is introduced in June 2005 it will:

- be based on a revised list of competencies and blueprint;
- include questions developed using a new approach called the key features approach; and
- include questions in short-answer and multiple-choice formats.

These changes will further enhance the exam's ability to assess clinical competence, problem solving and critical thinking skills. For an overview of the changes to the June 2005 CRNE, see CRNE Bulletin number 1, available at [www.cna-aiic.ca](http://www.cna-aiic.ca) or from provincial/territorial regulatory bodies.

## WHY DO CANDIDATES WRITING THE EXAM FROM JUNE 2004 TO JANUARY 2005 NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THESE CHANGES?

Although the changes are not being introduced until the June 2005 exam, they do have implications for June 2004 to January 2005 CRNE writers. The questions that will appear on the June 2005 exam need to be experimentally tested in the previous year.

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EXPERIMENTAL TESTING?

Experimental testing of questions is a regular part of the CRNE development process. Questions being considered for future examinations are experimentally tested and responses are statistically analyzed so as to identify the questions that work well and those requiring revision. Experimental testing of questions is just one of the steps taken to ensure that the CRNE is a quality examination.

## WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE EXPERIMENTAL QUESTIONS BEING TESTED DURING THE JUNE 2004 TO JANUARY 2005 EXAM PERIOD?

During the June 2004 to January 2005 exam cycle, some of the experimental questions being tested will be in the new short-answer format. This means that experimental items being tested on the June 2004 to January 2005 exams will appear in two formats, multiple-choice and short answer.

## HOW WILL THESE EXPERIMENTAL QUESTIONS BE INCORPORATED INTO THE EXAM?

The experimental questions that are in multiple-choice format will be integrated into the actual exam – as they always have been. However, the short-answer experimental questions will be included as a **separate booklet** during the June 2004 to January 2005 examination cycle. Completion of this separate booklet will be **optional**.

Candidates writing the CRNE from June 2004 to January 2005 will be provided with an additional 30 minutes at the end of the examination day to complete the optional short-answer experimental questions. This extra time may not be required, as many candidates complete the exam in much less time than allotted for writing.



## WHY SHOULD A CANDIDATE COMPLETE AN OPTIONAL BOOKLET IF IT DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD THE CRNE RESULT?

Experimental testing allows CNA to identify questions that are suitable for future examinations. By answering these optional short-answer questions, candidates are helping to ensure a quality exam for future exam writers. Candidates who fully complete the optional test booklet will also be provided with a small token of appreciation from CNA.

## WHAT WILL THE SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS IN THE OPTIONAL BOOKLET LOOK LIKE?

Sample short-answer questions are provided below. The italicized list beneath each question shows the responses that would be marked as correct answers. Note even though only three answers are required, there are more than three possible responses that would be considered correct. If these were operational questions on the CRNE, each question would count for three marks, one mark for each correct answer. Of course, the short-answer questions related to the June 2004 to January 2005 CRNE are experimental, so no mark would be assigned to these questions.

### SAMPLE QUESTIONS

#### CASE STUDY TEXT:

At 22:00, Mrs. Elliot, 85 years old, presents to emergency with severe nausea and a 12-hour history of abdominal pain.

#### QUESTION 1:

During the night, Mrs. Elliot reports frequent episodes of abdominal pain and nausea. She is treated with I.V. fluid, morphine and dimenhydrinate (Gravol). At breakfast time, Mrs. Elliot refuses to eat due to nausea. List **three** possible causes of Mrs. Elliot's nausea.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

#### List of approved correct answers:

- a) Medications
- b) Morphine
- c) Pain
- d) Dimenhydrinate
- e) Anxiety
- f) Lack of sleep
- g) Smell of food

#### QUESTION 2:

Mrs. Elliot is ordered a full fluid diet. She still feels nauseated. List **three** priority nursing strategies the nurse should use to decrease Mrs. Elliot's nausea.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

#### List of approved correct answers:

- a) Keep Mrs. Elliot NPO
- b) Maintain Mrs. Elliot on I.V. fluid for hydration
- c) Offer ice chips and clear liquids until symptoms disappear
- d) Educate Mrs. Elliot to take small sips of fluid
- e) Educate Mrs. Elliot to eat slowly
- f) Educate Mrs. Elliot to not lie flat immediately after eating
- g) Arrange to have small meals
- h) Arrange for cold food
- i) Assess and determine appropriate antiemetic
- j) Avoid spicy foods
- k) Provide comfort measures (e.g., relaxation techniques and visual imagery, music therapy)
- l) Offer pain medication
- m) Avoid scents (e.g., flowers, perfume, aftershave, food)

The above information is being provided for June 2004 to January 2005 CRNE writers to familiarize them with the new format in the **optional** test booklet. CRNE Bulletin number 3 and the revised CRNE blueprint, both to be released in spring 2004, will provide detailed information about the examination to be introduced in June 2005.



The CRNE Bulletin is published by the Regulatory Policy Division of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA).

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