Help the CTR Exam

Submit CTR Exam Questions and Receive CEs

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ITEM REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

One of the responsibilities of NCRA's Council on Certification is to develop and maintain examination questions. In a safe and secure item bank, there are currently 2,000 exam questions. The high number of potential items helps keep the 250-question CTR Exam from repeating questions from year-to-year and overall helps the exam stay current. The exam is a byproduct of hard work by Certified Tumor Registrars (CTR) since all past and present exam questions were written by CTRs.

The Council has identified specific topic areas where more questions are needed. Based on the Exam Content Outline, these areas relate to Standard Setting and Registry Organizations (Section I; B.) and coding and staging in the open book Section IV.

CTRs are asked to submit new questions based on the following areas and recommendations regarding complexity. Keep in mind, the CTR examination is an entry level position testing those that have a level of at least 2 years of experience and basic cancer registry knowledge and competency of all specialties. With newly submitted questions, the examination will continue to measure the requisite knowledge of applicants for the professional credential of CTR.

The method of submitting questions is detailed on the Council on Certification's website at: **http://www.ctrexam.org/pdfs/ctrexamitems.pdf. By submitting 5 exam questions with answers and references, 1 CE can be earned.** Consider using the existing list of exam resources at **http://www.ctrexam.org/resources**.

Recommendation of Question Style

The Council is seeking questions on standard setting and registry organizations for these specific groups:
• American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)
• Centers for Disease Control (CDC/NPCR)
• International Agency for Research On Cancer (IARC/IACR)
• National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, And End Results Program (SEER)
• North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR)

Please note: Questions on Commission on Cancer (COC) are included in this section of the Exam Content Outline, though questions are not being sought because there are sufficient quantities that exist on this topic.

Open book questions, on staging for example, should be on the major sites or straightforward in determining the answer. This will assure that the exam candidate has a good working knowledge and competency of the AJCC and Collaborative Staging (CS) process without eating up huge chunks of test-taking time. It is therefore recommended that if a question is likely to be a long process for the candidate to answer, it should not be submitted.

List of Major Sites:
• Breast
• Colorectal
• Lung
• Lymphomas
• Prostate

Further, since the CS is based on multiple data fields it was determined that testing for one data field would not ensure candidate competency in the multiple tasks needed to assign the CS. It was therefore decided that CS questions will begin to be multi-faceted. In addition, there will be more CS questions compared to AJCC staging questions in the open book portion of the exam. This importance was driven by the government mandate to report the factors needed to assign the CS.

Example of CS Question

Use the information below to answer the subsequent questions.
* CEA was within normal limits.
* Surgical observation during exploratory laparotomy and right hemicolectomy documented liver negative for any metastatic disease. Colon was distended.
* Pathology found 2.7 cm sigmoid lesion with moderately-differentiated adenocarcinoma with extension into the pericolic fat. Twelve nodes removed with 7 positive for metastatic disease.

Submit Answers like this:

Select correct answer set:

___CS tumor size 027	CS Extension 42	CS TS/Ext-Eval 5
___CS tumor size 270	CS Extension 40	CS TS/Ext-Eval 9
___CS tumor size 027	CS Extension 45	CS TS/Ext-Eval 3
___CS tumor size 003	CS Extension 45	CS TS/Ext-Eval 6
___CS Lymph Nodes	10Reg LN Positive 99	Reg LN Examined 12
___CS Lymph Nodes 20	Reg LN Positive 12	Reg LN Examined 99
___CS Lymph Nodes 80	Reg LN Positive 99	Reg LN Examined 99
___CS Lymph Nodes 10	Reg LN Positive 07	Reg LN Examined 12

Add Reference(s): *Title of source document & page#*

To keep up with continual changes of a cancer registrar's responsibilities, the Council on Certification continually evaluates areas on which the Certification process needs to focus. Based on a recent evaluation, the Council pinpointed the above areas that need additional questions. With your assistance, new questions will be incorporated into future CTR Exams.

National Cancer Registrars Association

Council on Certification