

Examination Report - Palmerston North

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May 2007

8 Candidates presented for the Certificate of Proficiency with 1 candidate for the Registration Exam.

Exam Team: Julie Bromley
Brenda Knowles
Stephanie Lewis
Annette Turley
Malcolm Stuart
Andrew Warmington

Facilitator: Karen Bennett
Secretary: Sonia Botica

Observers: Andrew Ditchburn (Friday only)

Examiner in Training: Dyanne Harbour

This examination ran very smoothly to my knowledge, for all the candidates and the Examination Team.

The Examination Team wish to publicly acknowledge all the work that Sonia and Karen put in. Thanks also to the other staff at Palmerston North Anaesthetic Department.

The Registration candidate was successful. Of the 8 presenting candidates for the Certificate of Proficiency, only 4 satisfied the court of examiners.

General Comments:

The format of this exam is well known, to ensure a good outcome, it is suggested that you:

- * Arrive early.
- * Have a chance to orientate yourself with the examination environment.
- * Orientate yourself with the machines being used. All hosting hospitals will be able to help.
- * Candidates should practice verbalising their knowledge in mock exams prior to presenting. (It was felt that many candidates disadvantaged themselves by appearing not to have rehearsed and acquired these skills).
- * Candidates, in conjunction with Supervisors, should ensure they arrive at the venue early enough to not be stressed and avail themselves of familiarisation.

Clinical Scenario

The pass / fail criteria was to clean up/setup a contaminated (dirty) machine and perform a level 3 machine check.

There were no tricks, ambushes and this problem with accepted good practice was disappointing. Although this is an exam, a general comment; have more communication with the Anaesthetist about the forthcoming patient's clinical needs, as this is what happens in real life.

General Equipment Vivas

Registration Candidate: There were 3 ten minute Vivas
General
IV, Blood, Patient Care
Equipment & Airway

Certificate: 1 ten minute Viva
General & Equipment.

2 Candidates failed to achieve the pass mark and as alluded to above, examination technique may well have contributed. Please ensure candidates practice this:

- * Answer what is asked
- * Concisely and timely

Exam Synopsis

Machine Check: There were 2 faults to find and correct.
7 candidates were successful.
The registration examination had 2 different faults.

Overall the standard was equivalent to previous exams. It was refreshing to see a candidate check successfully a machine without following the example template in “per verbatim” order.

Multiple Choice:

This consisted of 90 multiple choice questions, 2 candidates failed to achieve the pass mark. The examination committee reviewed the questions. Any question with any ambiguity were excluded prior to analysis.

Both failing candidates who failed the MCQ, also failed another element of the exam.

Clinical Scenario:

The court of examiners were surprised that this proved problematic, with 3 candidates failing to achieve the standards expected.

If you don't know “pass” or “move on”. Silences don't earn marks.

I would like to thank the examination team and candidates for their professionalism.
The top COP candidate was No. 66.

Malcolm Stuart
Chief Examiner