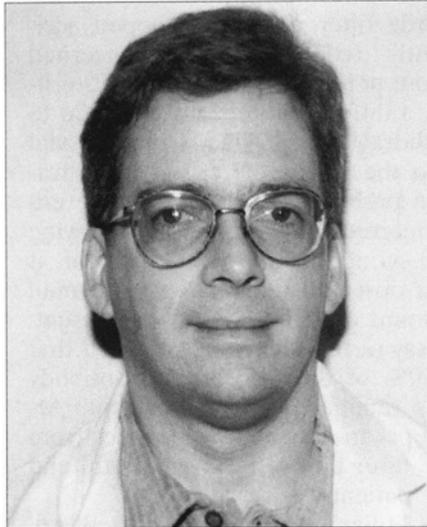


NMTCB REPORT

Daniel Leahey, CNMT, Chair



In my last report, I described some of the steps involved in item writing for the NMTCB exam. I wanted to show that a group of items entered into pretesting at the same time can quickly find their way into the various levels of successful use, editing or inactivation, depending on how well they contribute to the goal of the NMTCB exam to categorize competent entry-level nuclear medicine technologists.

It is also important to remember how item writing ties in with two other important activities of the NMTCB. These are the task analysis and the components of preparedness (COP). Both of these are updated at five-year intervals, initiated by the nationwide task analysis survey. The survey results are used to determine a national average level of nuclear medicine technology clinical proficiency requirements. This leads into the COP. These are divided into the four major categories of radiation safety, instrumentation, clinical procedures and radiopharmacy. The COP document is useful especially to program directors and students, as well as item writers. It is no coincidence that these documents agree with the SNM-TS Academic Affairs Curriculum Guide and the JRCNMT job description of nuclear medicine technology. The new COP document is in publication now and will be sent automatically to all known nuclear medicine technologist training programs. New programs or programs changing accreditation status should contact the NMTCB to avoid delayed or missed mailings.

A continuing issue for the NMTCB since its inception is determining if candidates are eligible to sit for the exam. The majority of candidates are now graduates of JRCNMT-accredited training programs, either college or hospital based. There remains an alternate eligibility route for candidates who do not receive their training at recognized JRCNMT-accredited programs. A growing number of candidates are expected to be graduates of regionally accredited programs. Since these programs may or may not vary in some aspects from

JRCNMT programs, the following criteria must be shown to the NMTCB: regionally accredited college and university programs must have structured clinical training sufficient to provide clinical competency in radiation safety, instrumentation, clinical procedures and radiopharmacy. This should require at least 1000 hours of clinical training supervised by program faculty.

This usually is not difficult to properly document for U.S. schools. Foreign-trained candidates often require more time for documentation. All alternate eligibility candidates are reminded that all documentation is their responsibility. Please follow all instructions and do not hesitate to contact the NMTCB for application advice. The NMTCB does not have the capability to research and provide documentation for individuals. The NMTCB reviews and analyzes documentation provided by individuals. Since this may take longer than standard applications, please allow extra time to help ensure that you are approved to take the exam when you are best prepared.

One area that the NMTCB wants to improve is its online presentation of material for potential candidates, item writers and anyone else who is interested in nuclear medicine technologist certifi-

cation. An important part of this is to enable online applications and renewals using credit cards. Also, some level of interactivity will be developed. For instance, requests for item writing for a specific task and online feedback to individuals, as well as a general area to include an FAQ section. You could complete surveys or connect to news and discussion groups. The NMTCB board made initial plans for the new web site at its fall meeting in September. It will include links to related professional groups, recognized VOICE-approved programs, alternate eligibility programs, board members, chapters job listings and continuing education programs. If you have recommendations for links or other roles for the NMTCB web site, please contact us. If the web site is still under revision, please contact us by e-mail at board@nm tcb.org or by phone at 404-315-1739.

My final order of business this month is to officially sign off as chair of the NMTCB board of directors. I hand over this duty to the capable Nancy Sawyer and continue to serve my second term with the board. It is appropriate to thank James Greene, PhD, our dedicated executive director, for his patience and support for all board members past and present. It is also noteworthy that Dr. Greene has established a hardworking staff in Atlanta that excels in meeting the needs of the board as well as everybody doing business with the board. The past few years have been years of enormous change for the NMTCB and the staff has kept operations at a consistently high professional level. Of course, I also am delighted to be able to continue working with all of the board members who freely give of their time and expertise for the NMTCB. Regretfully, one member who started at the same time I did is unable to continue with his second term. We miss you already Mark Richard. Thanks for all the hard work during your first term, especially getting the CAT exam started. As for the rest of us, we are at your service as we approach another new year.