



BULLETIN OF INFORMATION

Updated January 11, 2011

**COMVEX-USA Bulletin of Information
2011**

All candidates are required to read and be familiar with the contents of this Bulletin of Information prior to registering for and scheduling a COMVEX examination.

The policies, rules, procedures and obligations of candidates set forth in this Bulletin of Information are legally binding upon all candidates and will be applied and interpreted by the NBOME at its sole discretion. A decision by the NBOME regarding the application or interpretation of these rules and procedures is final. The NBOME may amend, modify and/or supplement these policies, rules, procedures and obligations of candidates at any time and from time to time without the consent of any candidate. All candidates will be legally bound to all changes published on the NBOME website.

Inquiries should be directed to:

National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Inc.

Client Services

Toll-free: (866) 479-6828

Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (Central Time) Monday – Friday

This Bulletin of Information is published at the NBOME website at www.nbome.org and can be downloaded from the NBOME home page.

Candidates may e-mail requests for additional information to candidateservices@nbome.org.

Registration and scheduling can be completed online in accordance with the requirements set out in this Bulletin of Information.

COMVEX-USA Bulletin of Information

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable Purpose Examination for the United States of America (COMVEX-USA) was developed for osteopathic physicians who hold or have held a valid license to practice osteopathic medicine in the United States. The purpose of COMVEX-USA is to assist state licensing boards by providing an evaluation examination for examinees required or sponsored by a state medical board to demonstrate current medical knowledge under standardized conditions. For example, the COMVEX-USA may be appropriate under any of the following circumstances:

- An osteopathic physician was originally licensed by an examination devoid of osteopathic content and is now applying for a license in a state that requires that an osteopathic physician take an osteopathic examination.
- An osteopathic physician is applying for licensure in a state that imposes a time limit (such as being examined within ten years) and has not been tested by a licensing board or a certifying board within that time.
- An osteopathic physician is requesting reinstatement of a license following an interruption in his or her career.
- A tenured osteopathic physician must demonstrate basic osteopathic medical competence.

The COMVEX-USA examination may only be taken if a state licensing board or other governmental licensing authority (state board) requests that the examinee be administered the examination or sponsors the examinee to take the examination.

History and Overview

The COMVEX-USA examination was created by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Inc. (NBOME), and was first administered in 1998. The first computer-based version of this examination was available in September of 2006.

COMVEX-USA is integrated into the COMLEX-USA licensing series by incorporating a similar examination design that focuses on the actual practice patterns of the generalist osteopathic physician. The examination is structured and coordinated along two axes, or dimensions. Dimension 1 lists different types of patient encounters – based upon the various reasons patients present to physicians (e.g., symptoms, signs, physical disturbances). Dimension 2 details six general physician skill areas that frame physician/patient encounters in the health care setting. Using the COMVEX-USA outline as a coordinate system, each test item can be plotted by its intersection on the two axes (Dimensions 1 and 2).

The blueprint and outline, and sample test item types, for the COMVEX-USA examination are described below under EXAMINATION CONTENT.

The members of the COMVEX-USA construction and review committees are practicing osteopathic clinicians and/or osteopathic medical school faculty members. The COMVEX-USA committee members are chosen for their expertise in their respective fields of medical practice.

All items on the COMVEX-USA exams are carefully selected, reviewed, and pre-tested for their appropriateness and discrimination ability. All test materials associated with COMVEX-USA examinations are copyrighted and are the property of the NBOME. The COMVEX-USA test materials may not be reproduced, distributed, or used in any manner or form without prior express written authorization of the NBOME.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility

Eligibility to take a COMVEX-USA examination is determined by the state board requesting or sponsoring the examinee taking the examination. Individual state boards may provide different criteria under which COMVEX-USA may be used. Please refer to the web site of the Federation of State Medical Boards, www.fsmb.org (State Medical Information – Board Directory), for a listing of all osteopathic and composite boards in the United States and Guam.

An application for the COMVEX-USA is available at the NBOME website, www.nbome.org, along with fee structures and other information.

COMVEX-USA is administered only at the direction of the state boards. Interested applicants must contact the appropriate state board directly to begin the application process. After the examinee has obtained the approval of a state board requesting or sponsoring the examination and the name and contact information for that state board, the examinee may download a COMVEX-USA application form from the NBOME.

Test Accommodation Requests

The Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA) requires the NBOME to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations for “persons with disabilities” as that term is defined by law.

If the examinee is a “person with disabilities” defined by law, he or she should contact the requesting or sponsoring state board for approval of a reasonable test accommodation in connection with the administration of the COMVEX-USA examination.

The term “persons with disabilities” for purposes of the ADA includes a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of that individual, as compared to most people in the general population.

Testing Dates/Sites

COMVEX-USA examinations are delivered at more than 300 test centers located within all 50 states of the United States. The exact location of test centers and availability of the sites for the test dates can be viewed after registering for the examination.

Re-examination

A COMVEX-USA examination will not be administered to the same examinee more than once within any 90-day period.

Score/Status Reporting

COMVEX-USA scores are released to the state board approximately 15 business days following the examination administration. Although the passing requirements for COMVEX-USA are established by the requesting or sponsoring state board and are subject to

variation, the NBOME will report whether the examinee passed or failed the COMVEX-USA examination based upon a minimum passing score recommended by the the NBOME. An examinee profile graphically depicting the examinee's performance will also be supplied to the state board with the COMVEX-USA results.

Examination Conduct/Confidentiality

Any conduct of an examinee in connection with the administration of a COMVEX-USA examination deemed irregular conduct by the NBOME is taken very seriously, and may result in the examination being voided and not being scored, prohibition of the examinee from taking any further examination administered by the NBOME, and/or civil or other action against the examinee to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The examinee must also maintain in strict confidence all test items and other confidential information included in the COMVEX-USA examination, both during and after the administration of the examination. Failure to maintain the confidentiality of the examination may compromise the integrity and security of the COMVEX-USA examination and will be considered irregular conduct and will subject the examinee to appropriate sanctions and/or damages.

Irregular conduct includes any behavior on the part of any examinee whose conduct violates the integrity or security of the examination or who exhibits behavior that is disruptive to the administration of the examination. Verbal or physical abuse of the proctor, any agent of the NBOME or other examinees, and refusal to provide proper ID or permit photo documentation for ID verification during the check-in is considered irregular conduct. Examinees must abide by all policies of the NBOME and the testing vendor, and failure to do so may be considered irregular conduct.

Examinees may not bring into the testing area any notes, texts, or other items of personal property relating in any manner to the examination or its content. Violation of this prohibition is considered irregular conduct. Examinees must place all such personal property in the secure lockers provided at the test centers. Likewise, removing scrap paper or the white board provided by the test center from the testing area would constitute irregular conduct. Examinees are also advised that copying, reproducing, discussing, reporting or recording test items or test content, in addition to being a violation of security that may compromise the integrity of the examination and result in the imposition of sanctions or damage, may result in violation of copyright laws.

Examinees are under both proctor and electronic surveillance during the administration of all NBOME-administered examinations.

Any report of irregular conduct will be investigated by the NBOME. Whether irregular conduct occurred in a particular situation is to be determined by the NBOME in its sole discretion, and all decisions of the NBOME are final and binding upon the examinee and the requesting or sponsoring state board.

Contact Information

Inquiries regarding COMVEX-USA should be directed to:

National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Inc.
Attn: Client Services
8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60631-4174
Phone (773) 714-0622
Fax (773) 714-0631

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) Monday through Friday.

The NBOME home page is located at www.nbome.org.

Examinees may contact the NBOME at clientservices@nbome.org for further information regarding the COMVEX-USA examination.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

How to Register

An eligible examinee must register and schedule the COMVEX-USA examination through the NBOME's Client Services department. After being approved by a state board, an examinee may download an application form from the NBOME website at www.nbome.org. Examinee applicants are normally contacted with 10 business days upon receipt of the completed application.

An examinee should select and schedule a specific examination date and test center location at least 90 days before a specific test date in order to increase the likelihood that he or she will obtain the date and test site where the examinee desires to test.

A COMVEX-USA examination must be scheduled for testing more than five days before the scheduled test date. **An examinee will not be permitted to schedule or reschedule a COMVEX-USA examination within five days before a desired test date.**

Scheduling Confirmation

After selection of an examination date, the examinee will receive a confirmation page via email. The confirmation page includes a confirmation number for confirming the scheduled examination on the test vendor website, and if needed, rescheduling the examination.

Canceled or Missed Scheduled Examination

An examinee may cancel and reschedule a scheduled COMVEX-USA examination online at the NBOME website (www.nbome.org) only in accordance with the following:

Canceling at Least 30 Days Before Scheduled Date An examinee may cancel and/or reschedule a scheduled examination at least 30 days before the scheduled examination without incurring any rescheduling fee to reschedule the examination.

Canceling Less Than 30 Days and 5 Days or More Days Before Scheduled Date An examinee may cancel and/or reschedule a scheduled examination within 30 days but

more than five days before a scheduled examination but must pay a rescheduling fee of \$125.00 to reschedule the examination.

Canceling Less Than 5 Days Before Scheduled Date An examinee may cancel a scheduled examination within five days before a scheduled examination (but no later than noon of the day before the start of the scheduled examination) but must pay a rescheduling fee of \$250.00 to reschedule the examination.*

Failure to Timely Cancel or Show for Examination If a examinee fails to show at the scheduled time and place for an examination (or to cancel his or her scheduled examination at least by noon of the day before the scheduled test date), the examinee may reschedule the examination but must pay a rescheduling fee of \$350.00.*

*An examinee who cancels an examination within the 5-day period before the scheduled examination or fails to show for his or her scheduled examination may not reschedule a new test date until after the missed scheduled examination is administered by the NBOME.

The rescheduling fee must be paid when the canceled or missed examination is rescheduled.

The examinee must contact the NBOME Client Services department to reschedule a canceled or missed examination no later than 30 days following the administration of the canceled or missed examination. If an examinee chooses not to reschedule the canceled or missed examination or does not act to reschedule that examination prior to 30 days following the canceled or missed examination, all fees paid by or for the examinee for the canceled or missed examination will be forfeited and the full registration fee must be paid to reschedule the canceled or missed examination.

A cancellation or rescheduling is not effective until received in writing. Rescheduling of an examination is subject to the availability of the testing center.

If a examinee cancels and reschedules a scheduled examination, and submits to the NBOME a written request for waiver of the rescheduling fee no later than 30 days following the administration of the canceled examination, the NBOME in its sole discretion, for good cause shown, may waive up to 50% of the rescheduling fee. The examinee shall include with any such request for waiver a written statement of the reasons for the request and shall provide to the NBOME all documentation requested by the NBOME before any such request will be considered. When rescheduling the new examination date the examinee must pay the entire rescheduling fee. Any portion of the rescheduling fee waived by the NBOME shall be credited to the examinee's NBOME account for future examinations, if any.

TEST DAY

Arrival Time

On the scheduled examination date, examinees should arrive at the test center at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the examination. Examinees should check their confirmation page for accurate start times. Start times at the test centers may vary.

What to Bring to the Test Center

Examinees must bring with them a government-issued picture ID, such as a license or passport. Examinees should dress comfortably, as the testing may take the full day. Examinees should bring corrective lenses or hearing aids if they are required for test taking.

Examinees are not permitted to bring food or drink into the testing area of the center. If an examinee requires food or drink during the testing period, he or she may request an unscheduled break. However, no additional time will be given for any unscheduled break.

Due to security regulations, examinees are not permitted to bring any personal property into the testing area relating to the examination. During the check-in process, proctors will ask examinees to place all such personal property in secure lockers, for which they will be given keys. Items such as calculators, PDAs, cell phones, pagers, notebooks, reference materials, and DVD and CD players are not permitted in the testing area and should be placed in the secure lockers provided at the center. Examinees will be provided a pen or pencil and scrap paper or a white board. Scrap paper used during the test will be collected and shredded. Under no circumstance may any scrap paper or white board be removed from the testing area.

Computer Based Test/Allotted Time

The COMVEX-USA is a computer based test ("CBT") and consists of 400 items divided into eight 50-item sections. There is a morning and an afternoon test session, each consisting of four sections. Examinees are allotted four hours for each four-section session.

Break

Following the 4-hour period allotted for the four sections of the morning test session, examinees will be given a 40-minute break. The test time will stop and examinees will be required to leave the testing area for the break period, if they choose to take the break. The afternoon test session will begin promptly 40 minutes after the scheduled end time of the morning test session.

Food will not be provided during the optional 40-minute break. Examinees are advised to either bring their own food or be prepared to purchase food at restaurants in the proximity of the test center. Examinees should check with the test center about the availability of food services in their vicinity.

Snacks and drinks are not permitted in the testing area of the test center due to the risk of equipment damage and the possibility of disturbing other examinees.

The 40-minute break is the only period during which the test time will stop. Any other break will not result in additional test time. The examinee may take two additional 10-minute breaks, one between sections 2 and 3 and one between sections 6 and 7. However, the test time will continue to run during these optional 10-minute breaks.

TEST-TAKING EXPERIENCE

The Waiting Room

Typically the COMVEX-USA testing experience begins when the examinee enters the waiting area of a Thomson-Prometric Testing Center. Examinees should be at the center and sign in

at least 30 minutes in advance of the scheduled test time. The proctor will call the examinee when it is time to begin the test.

Check-in

When the examinee is called by the proctor, the check-in process will begin. First, the proctor will check the test taker's ID. Examinees are required to show two pieces of ID, including either a driver's license or other government-issued picture IDs. As part of the registration process, the COMVEX-USA examinee will have had a digital image captured and sent to the NBOME to verify the identity of the examinee. In addition, a biometric (finger print) may be made at the time of check-in.

The Testing Experience

Examinees will be escorted to their designated workstation. Due to the length of the COMVEX-USA examination, examinees are provided with a scheduled mid-examination break of 40 minutes. During the scheduled break, the test time will stop. If an examinee must take a break during the test, other than the scheduled break, the test time will continue.

Breaks are normally authorized to allow examinees to visit the restrooms or to provide an opportunity to eat. Should an examinee have a question during the examination or require an unscheduled break, he or she should simply raise a hand to attract the attention of the proctor.

Examinees are reminded that the test has a 4-hour morning session and a 4-hour afternoon session.

EXAMINATION CONTENT

Blueprint of COMVEX-USA Examination

The blueprint for the COMVEX-USA examination is the following:

Dimension 1

Topic	Percentage
Population Health Concepts and Patients with Presentations Related to Health Promotion, Chronic Disease Management, & Human Development	8-16%
Patients with Presentations Related to Digestion and Metabolism	4-10%
Patients with Presentations Related to Cognition, Behavior, Sensory & Central Nervous Systems, Substance Abuse, and Visceral and Sensory Pain	28-38%
Patients with Presentations Related to the Musculoskeletal System, including Somatic Pain	6-12%
Patients with Presentations Related to the Genitourinary System and Human Sexuality	3-8%
Patients with Presentations Related to Circulation and the Respiratory System	8-16%
Patients with Presentations Related to Thermoregulation	2-6%
Patients with Presentations Related to Trauma, Masses, Edema, Discharge, and the Skin, Hair, and Nails	8-16%

Patients with Presentations Related to Pregnancy, the Peripartum, and the Neonatal Period	3-8%
---	------

Dimension 2

Topic	Percentage
Health Promotion/Disease Prevention	3-6%
History & Physical Examination	22-26%
Diagnostic Technologies	13-17%
Management	35-43%
Scientific Understanding of Health & Disease Mechanisms	3-6%
Health Care Delivery Issues	8-12%

According to this two-dimensional structure, each test item measures a physician's capability to apply one of the six physician tasks to the resolution of a specific patient problem.

The structural/osteopathic component is integrated within the fabric of the entire examination. Osteopathic principles and practices (OPP) in the examination are not considered only applicable to musculoskeletal problems, but are applicable to human problems in all body systems with various symptoms. Approximately 15-20% of the exam is specifically OPP-related, with additional OPP content included within distractors throughout the exam.

Outline of Possible Examination Topics

The following is an outline of the topics that may be included in the COMVEX-USA (*Note that the topics listed in the following outline are neither comprehensive nor mandatory*):

Dimension 1 – Patient Presentation

Population Health Concepts and Patients with Presentations Related to Health Promotion, Chronic Disease Management, and Human Development

Abnormal Findings

- Anemia
- Bacteriuria
- ECG Abnormalities
- Electrolyte Abnormalities
- Heart Sound Abnormalities
- Hepatitis
- Hyperlipidemia
- Hyperuricemia
- Lead Poisoning
- Proteinuria

Disease Detection & Monitoring

- AIDS/HIV
- Anemia
- Axial/Appendicular Skeletal Somatic Dysfunction
- Breast Cancer
- Cardiac/Ischemic Disease
- Colon Cancer

- Diabetes
- Gallbladder Dysfunction
- Gynecologic Cancer
- Hepatitis
- Hyperlipidemia
- Hypertension
- Immunologic Disorders
- Mental Retardation
- Obesity
- Osteoporosis
- Other Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Scoliosis
- Sexually Transmitted Disease, Known Contact
- Substance Abuse
- Tuberculosis
- General Concepts
 - Anatomical Facts
 - Ethical Principles
 - Public Health Principles
- Physiologic Processes
 - Aging Physiology
 - Developmental Milestones
 - Sexual Development
- Services Rendered
 - Contraception
 - Exercise/Sports Work-Up
 - Genetic Screening
 - Physical Examination
 - Pre & Postoperative Care
 - Vaccinations Against Specific Diseases

Patients with Presentations Related to Digestion and Metabolism

- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Dysphagia/Feeding Problems/Odynophagia
- Encopresis
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Weight Gain/Obesity
- Weight Loss

Patients with Presentations Related to Cognition, Behavior, Sensory & Central Nervous Systems, Substance Abuse, and Visceral and Sensory Pain

- Cognitive Difficulties
 - Anxiety
 - Behavioral Disturbances
 - Confusion/Disorientation
 - Dementia
 - Depression
 - Eating Disorders
 - Learning Difficulties

- Life Adjustment
- Suicidal Ideation
- Consciousness Alterations
 - Amnesia
 - Brain Concussion
 - Coma
 - Delirium
 - Sleep Disturbances
 - Syncope
- Fatigue & Weakness
 - Fatigue
 - Weakness
- Sensory & CNS Difficulties
 - Dizziness/Vertigo
 - Hearing Disorders
 - Olfactory Disorders
 - Paralysis/Paresis
 - Paresthesia
 - Seizures
 - Speech Disorders
 - Tactile Disorders
 - Taste Disorders
 - Visual Disorders
 - Voluntary & Involuntary Abnormal Movements
- Sensory Pain
 - Abdominal/Pelvic Pain
 - Anesthesia
 - Chest Pain
 - Ear Pain
 - Extremity Pain
 - Eye Pain
 - Face Pain
 - Genital Pain
 - Head Pain
 - Mouth Pain
 - Rectal Pain
 - Throat Pain
- Substance Abuse
 - Alcohol Abuse
 - Controlled Substance Abuse
 - Non-Controlled Drug Abuse
 - Tobacco Abuse

Patients with Presentations Related to the Musculoskeletal System, including Somatic Pain

- Muscular Pain
 - Back Pain
 - Joint Pain
 - Neck Pain
- Musculoskeletal Difficulties
 - Fasciculations

- Gait Disturbance/Falls
- Muscle Spasms
- Muscular Atrophy
- Myofascial Pain
- Spinal Deformities

Patients with Presentations Related to the Genitourinary System and Human Sexuality

- Anuria
- Dyspareunia
- Dysuria
- Enuresis/Incontinence
- Erectile Dysfunction
- Infertility
- Menstrual Disorders
- Oliguria
- Polyuria
- Priapism
- Pyuria, Non-Infectious
- Urinary Hesitancy

Patients with Presentations Related to Circulation and the Respiratory System

- Bleeding
 - Hematemesis
 - Hematochezia/Melena
 - Hematuria
 - Hemoptysis
 - Nasal Bleeding
 - Systemic Or Non-Defined
 - Transfusion Practices
 - Vaginal (Abnormal)
- Respiratory Difficulties
 - Airway Obstruction
 - Cough
 - Dyspnea
 - Rate/Rhythm Abnormalities

Patients with Presentations Related to Thermoregulation

- Fever
- Hypothermia

Patients with Presentations Related to Trauma, Masses, Edema, Discharge, and the Skin, Hair, and Nails

- Discharge
 - Anal Discharge
 - Ear Discharge
 - Eye Discharge
 - Nasal Discharge
 - Nipple Discharge
 - Penile Discharge
 - Urethral Discharge

- Vaginal Discharge
- Masses & Edema
 - Abdominal Masses
 - Axillary Masses
 - Breast Masses
 - Chest/Lung Masses
 - Edema
 - Extremity Masses/Swelling
 - Head/Neck Masses/Swelling
- Joint Masses/Swelling
- Pelvic Masses
- Rectal Masses/Swelling
- Scrotal/Testicular Masses/Swelling
- Skin, Nail & Hair Disorders
 - Alopecia
 - Cyanosis/Pallor/Pigmentation Disturbance
 - Gangrene
 - Jaundice
 - Lesions
 - Nail Disorders
 - Pruritus
 - Rash
- Trauma
- Burns
- Child Abuse
- Crush Injury/Syndrome
- Domestic Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Motor Vehicle Collisions
- Multiple Trauma
- Poisoning
- Rape
- Shock
- Wounds

Patients with Presentations Related to Pregnancy, the Peripartum, and the Neonatal Period

- Bleeding In Pregnancy
- Labor & Delivery Process
- Lactation
- Neonatal Assessment
 - Neonatal Complications
 - Normal Obstetrics
 - Postpartum Infections
 - Pregnancy Complications

Dimension 2 – Physician Tasks

Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

- Biostatistics & Epidemiology
- Clinical Prevention
- Disease Transmission Processes
- International Health Care Issues
- Occupational & Environmental Medicine

History & Physical Examination

- Examination & Recognition
- Gathering Patient Information

Diagnostic Technologies

- Electrophysiologic
- Imaging
- Laboratory

Management

- Complementary & Alternative Medicine
- Consultation
- End of Life
- Inter-Disciplinary Teams
- Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (Common OMT techniques include counterstrain, muscle energy, myofascial release, high velocity low amplitude thrust, soft tissue, lymphatic technique, osteopathy in the cranial field, articular techniques, balanced ligamentous tension, ligamentous articular strain, facilitated positional release, Still technique, visceral technique, Chapman reflexes, and trigger points)
- Non-Pharmacological Medical
- Pharmacological
- Psychosocial
- Rehabilitation
- Surgical

Scientific Understanding of Health & Disease Mechanisms

- Anatomy
- Biochemistry
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Microbiology
- Molecular & Cell Biology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Physiology

Health Care Delivery Issues

- Health Care System Overview
- Information Management & Technology
- Medical Ethics
- Medical Jurisprudence
- Medical Management

Patient Confidentiality
Physician-Patient Communication
Population-Based Care
Practice Management
Quality Measurement & Improvement
Teamwork & Collaboration

Sample Item Types

The following are sample test item types. Some items will be accompanied by pictorial material (e.g., charts, graphs, slides, monitor strips, radiographs). Instructions on what type of information to interpret from each visual will be included with each item accompanied by such material.

“One-Best-Answer” Test Item Type

One-Best-Answer multiple-choice formats comprise the majority of the COMVEX-USA exams. This item type expresses an incomplete statement or asks a question. The item is followed by five answer options, only one of which is most appropriate.

There are two types of one-best-answer items. One type is a single stand-alone item. The other type uses two or more one-best-answer items following a case history. Examples of both of these types follow:

One-Best-Answer (single item)

A 35-year-old female who underwent a cholecystectomy developed nausea and vomiting postoperatively due to a protracted ileus. Prior to surgery, her weight was normal for her age and height. She was basically in good health except for cholecystitis. Six days postoperatively, the patient remains unable to eat. Which of the following forms of nutritional support is most appropriate?

- (A) trace elements
- (B) nasogastric feeding tube
- (C) peripheral hyperalimentation
- (D) central hyperalimentation
- (E) fat-free enteral diet

KEY: C

One-Best-Answer (case)

A 40-year-old male presents with the sudden onset of a severe headache localized toward the occiput and neck. There is an associated defect in vision along with unilateral numbness and weakness. Oral temperature is 37.5°C (99.5°F), the neck is stiff when bending forward, and Kernig and Brudzinski signs are present.

Which of the following should be performed first?

- (A) cerebral arteriography
- (B) CT scan of the head
- (C) complete skull radiographs
- (D) lumbar puncture
- (E) electroencephalography

KEY: B

The most likely diagnosis is

- (A) occipital brain tumor
- (B) subdural hematoma
- (C) cerebral aneurysm with hemorrhage
- (D) conversion reaction
- (E) vertebrobasilar insufficiency

KEY: C

“Matching Sets” Test Item Type

This test item type consists of a list of entities (e.g., laboratory data, diseases, management options) followed by several statements or phrases. The options in the matching set precede the actual items, unlike the one-best-answer multiple-choice items. Only one answer can be correct for any given item. Any number of items may follow the lettered headings. The number of lettered headings ranges from five to nine. A sample matching set follows:

Matching Sets

For each numbered item (**patient scenario**), select the one lettered heading (**surgical procedure**) most closely associated with it. Each lettered heading may be selected once, more than once, or not at all.

- (A) abdominoperineal resection with end colostomy
- (B) laser vaporization ablation
- (C) left hemicolectomy with primary anastomosis
- (D) sigmoid resection with diverting colostomy
- (E) total colectomy with ileostomy

A 32-year-old female with ulcerative colitis and bleeding that has been unresponsive to conservative therapy

KEY: E

A 65-year-old male with a pelvic abscess due to sigmoid diverticular disease

KEY: D

A 54-year-old female with adenocarcinoma 4 cm from the anal verge

KEY: A

An 89-year-old male with a 3-cm villous adenoma extending from the anus

KEY: B

A 75-year-old female with a 3-cm well-differentiated adenocarcinoma of the sigmoid colon

KEY: C

COMVEX-USA CBT PRACTICE EXAM

A COMVEX Practice examination can be found at:

<http://www.nbome.org/comvexcbt/index.htm>.