

22nd February 2024 – Reading Part B

Text 1 - Vocab:

- Mechanisms
- Entrapment
- Hazard

- 1 What point do the guidelines make about allocating powered wheelchairs?
- (A) Patients with progressive conditions should be prioritised.
 - (B) Extra care should be taken when assessing their suitability for a child.
 - (C) Every effort should be made to offer them to the widest possible range of users.

Wheelchair selection guidelines

Mechanisms in wheelchairs which are used to provide seat tilt, seat lift and backrest recline functions can pose an entrapment threat, in particular to fingers, toes and especially to inquisitive children. Trapping points can also be created when adjustable components such as reclining backrests are moved relative to fixed components such as armrests. During the evaluation process, consideration should be given to the user's physical abilities (e.g. eyesight and postural control) and the intended setting for the wheelchair, along with the manufacturer's guidance, to reduce trapping hazards. People who are visually impaired or who have severe epilepsy may be unable to use powered wheelchairs safely. However, the benefits, specific situation, diagnosis and prognosis should be taken into account, so that end users, who could in fact operate the powered wheelchair safely, are not denied.

Text 2 - Vocab:

- Euthanasia
- Conversely
- Welfare

- 2 The **memo** about **animal euthanasia** advises veterinary surgeons **on**
- (A) **how to recognise** when an owner is neglectful.
 - (B) how best to support owners **after the procedure**.
 - (C) **what to do** if owners' wishes **conflict** with **their opinion**.

Memo for veterinary surgeons: Euthanasia

The primary purpose of euthanasia is to relieve the suffering of an animal. Before a decision is made, many factors should be assessed, including extent and nature of the disease or injuries, prognosis and potential quality of life after treatment, likelihood of successful treatment, animal's age and health status or even the owner is able to pay for private treatment.

On occasion, veterinary surgeons may need to make difficult decisions. For example, they may receive a request for the destruction of an animal which, in their clinical and professional judgement, is unnecessary, as there are no health or welfare reasons. **Conversely, an owner may wish to keep an animal alive in circumstances where euthanasia would be the kindest course of action.** In such cases, the extreme sensitivity of the situation should be recognised, and **sympathetic efforts made to recommend alternative sources of advice, such as a second veterinary opinion.**

Text 3 - Vocab:

- Empirical
- Out-of-season
- Implement

- 3 The memo states that patients presenting with influenza symptoms should be
- (A) started on medication before the illness is confirmed.
 - (B) placed in isolation to protect other patients.
 - (C) examined for other high-risk conditions.

Memo: To all family doctors – influenza diagnosis

This is a reminder that influenza must be considered in patients presenting with compatible symptoms and verified rapidly by requesting appropriate laboratory investigations. It is equally important that empirical antiviral therapy is commenced rapidly, before influenza is identified, as delays are associated with increased mortality.

Seasonal influenza: Patients with severe, complicated influenza often require admission to critical care units at the time of hospitalisation or soon after admission. Influenza may be missed as a potential diagnosis in individuals who have travelled recently, have unexplained severe, acute respiratory infections or out-of-season, atypical or extra-pulmonary presentations. In addition to consequences for the infected individual, failure to consider influenza and implement appropriate infection prevention and control measures may increase the risk of in-hospital transmission and outbreaks within critical care.

Answers:

1. C
2. C
3. A