



## **Policy on Writing Multiple Choice Posttest Questions**

When writing multiple-choice questions for a CME/CE posttest, answers to the questions must be found in content presented. To construct a multiple-choice question and appropriate distracters, start by examining the material being presented, including the educational objectives. Formatting the questions relative to the objectives enables us to measure the effectiveness of the activity in meeting those objectives.

Format questions according to the following criteria:

- Each question should have a choice of four answers, only one of which can be correct
- Partially correct answer options are to be avoided
- Answer options that suggest multiple answers or no correct answer should be avoided (e.g., both answers a and c are correct; all of the above; or none of the above)
- The three distracters listed should be plausible, reasonable, and related to the correct answer
- All the answers should be approximately the same length
- Identify the correct answer to each question
- A brief explanation of the correct answer must be provided, and will be shared with learners after they pass the post-test.

See also:

Collins J. Writing Multiple-Choice Questions for Continuing Medical Education Activities and Self-Assessment Modules. *Radiographics*. 2006. 26(2):543-551. Available at: <http://pubs.rsna.org/doi/pdf/10.1148/rq.262055145>.

Dickinson M. Writing Multiple-Choice Questions for Higher-level Thinking. 2011. December 5. Available at: <http://www.learningsolutionsmag.com/articles/804/writing-multiple-choice-questions-for-higher-level-thinking>.

Eckerstein JB. Creating a Multiple Choice Posttest for a CME Activity. 2002. 24(8):3-4.