

Preface

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Study guide is designed for technologists to serve as a practical tool to study multiple aspects of nuclear medicine. The book contains insights from the wide spectrum of nuclear medicine concepts and principles, providing an array of problems that technologists can, and will, encounter in everyday practice. Some of the questions are easy, some of them are not. In either case, the book is not only designed to test the reader's knowledge. It should also be used as tool to learn and understand nuclear medicine in preparation for passing nuclear medicine technology examinations. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Our book includes more than 60 images, graphics, and diagrams. It is our goal for these illustrations to help the reader get to the bottom of the problem and come up with the right solution quicker.

The book is divided into seven chapters. We kick off the book with a chapter on test taking strategies. It is designed to equip you with practical tools and methods to successfully navigate through the multiple-choice exam. It was written by a recent graduate; the hands-on experience provides readers with valuable insider tips.

Chapters 2, 3, and 4 contain the test problems. Each sample test includes 220 multiple choice questions – chapters are organized in three levels of complexity, from the easiest to the most difficult. Generally, tagging questions as easy or difficult is a tricky matter, and highly subjective. Nevertheless, for learning purposes the proposed classification will be beneficial for readers. Each chapter is a separate entity with answers and optional short explanations included. This will work like building blocks, where the completion of the first test prepares the reader to progress to the second test, and so on.

Appendix A consists of the critical formulas, numbers, and normal range values for some of the quantitative nuclear medicine procedures. Some readers should commit these to memory – especially students preparing for licensee examinations – while others should at least be aware of where to locate them.

Appendix B offers a list of commonly used abbreviations and symbols that are encountered in daily nuclear medicine practice, and beyond. The list may either appear too short or too long; some readers may find the included terms unnecessary while other readers may not find the abbreviation they are looking for. One size

never fits all, and thus it was a subjective choice in making the list – our selection is not comprehensive, but we think it is practical for review purposes. Use it to your advantage. There is enough space between the lines, and in the margins, to add or modify according to your own preference. Understanding the acronyms will pay off in the long run; simply being able to decode it, will be short-lived. Therefore, a thorough review of the abbreviations before the examinations can be very helpful, and highly suggested.

Appendix C is composed of Web site addresses that offer priceless and free information on many topics related to the nuclear medicine field. Our hope is that readers will explore them for more specific information.

The presented collection of problems closely mirrors the exam content as provided by NMTCB and ARRT. The questions cover radiation safety, radionuclides, and instrumentation to name a few. The reader should never be discouraged when the type of “never heard of” or “it is over my head” problem is encountered. We advise students to go through these questions carefully, and answer diligently – you will be surprised how much you already know and how much you still can learn. Both factors serve as great motivators. Learning should be fun, entertaining, and contagious. Nuclear medicine is a challenging and rapidly evolving field of medicine and the only way to keep pace with its development is through continuous learning. Make it fun, and make it a habit – this is the kind of addiction you can afford. You can read, you can study, you can investigate, and you can challenge yourself and others. Best of all you can exceed ... your own expectations. The choice is yours.

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