

### **Explanation of Best of 5 (BO5)**

In an attempt to simulate the challenge of making clinical decisions all questions offer candidates five options from which they must identify the single best option.

Each question comprises:

- a. A few lines of text explaining the clinical scenario (the stem) including, in some cases, investigation results;
- b. A single line stating the question itself (the lead in); and
- c. A list of 5 options (one preferred correct answer and 4 distractors).

The 5 options are all plausible and realistic and the 4 distractors are closely related to the preferred option but less correct. The task of the candidate is to identify which of the 5 options is most likely to be correct, given the particular circumstances set out in the clinical scenario. Therefore, there may appear to be more than one possible answer but only one that is the best or preferred option.

N.B. This is intended to illustrate the format, and is drawn from the past so may not reflect current guidelines. For an explanatory note about the guidelines used in the examination, refer to the Guide to the Diploma under “National Guidelines”. These questions may not necessarily reflect the range of difficulty, which will vary.

### **Example**

A 44-year-old man presents with pneumocystis pneumonia. After treatment of the acute infection he commences ART and co-trimoxazole as secondary prophylaxis.

Baseline (pre-treatment) investigations:

CD4 count	70 cells / $\mu$ L
HIV viral load	80 000 copies/mL

What are the recommended criteria for discontinuation of secondary PCP prophylaxis?

- A. HIV viral load <50 and CD4 count >200 for 3 months
- B. HIV viral load <50 and CD4 count >200 for 6 months
- C. HIV viral load <50 and CD4 count >200 for 12 months
- D. HIV viral load <50 for 3 months at any CD4 count
- E. HIV viral load <50 for 6 months at any CD4 count

**Correct Response:** A