

# Assignment 3:

## Diarrhoea and Vomiting in the Offshore Environment

Name:

Date:

*You are the medic on a large platform in the Northern North Sea with a POB of 150. Early on a Sunday evening one of the crew attends the Sick Bay complaining of abdominal pain, diarrhoea and vomiting.*

1. Describe your initial response to this. This should include what aspects of the history should cover and what your initial examination should consist of. **(10 points)**

2. What is your differential diagnosis? **(3 points)**

*As you are completing your assessment of Patient 1, two more men appear at the Sick Bay with similar symptoms. You undertake similar assessments on both.*

3. How does the increase in numbers affected change your differential diagnosis? What further details of the history should now be taken? **(3 points)**

4. How would you manage these patients? **(4 points)**

*By next morning a further six patients are affected, some quite severely, but there does not appear to be a common link from the food history. Nevertheless, you are asked by the OIM to inspect the galley and associated area to reassure the crew.*

5. Describe how you would proceed with the audit, highlighting areas which are potentially causes of food borne infection (including staff) (**10 points**)

*Your galley inspection confirms that there are no concerns about food borne infection, so the most likely diagnosis is one of viral illness. Winter Vomiting Virus is a common cause of outbreaks of symptoms in closed communities such as cruise ships and offshore installations.*

6. What are you going to advise to reduce the risk of further spread of the illness? **(5 points)**