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AMT Molecular Diagnostics Technologist



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Question: 1

A capillary electrophoresis fragment analysis run shows a very strong peak in one dye channel. A smaller peak appears at the same size in another dye channel, and the instrument software flags possible spectral pull-up.

Which interpretation is most appropriate?

- A. The smaller peak may be an artifact from spectral overlap and should be reviewed according to assay criteria
- B. Spectral pull-up proves that both peaks are true independent alleles
- C. Dye-channel artifacts are impossible in capillary electrophoresis
- D. The smaller peak should be reported without review because software flags are never relevant

Answer: A

Question: 2

A high-positive specimen is diluted 1:10, 1:100, and 1:1,000 during quantitative assay validation. The measured results do not decrease proportionally with dilution at the highest concentration, suggesting signal saturation.

Which concept is being evaluated?

- A. PPE selection for splash risk
- B. Linearity and reportable range
- C. Autosomal recessive phase
- D. FISH nuclear truncation

Answer: B

Question: 3

A laboratory validates a new molecular assay by testing patient specimens previously characterized by a well-established comparator method. The laboratory evaluates whether the new assay results agree with the comparator.

Which performance characteristic is primarily being assessed?

- A. Accuracy or method agreement
- B. Eyewash accessibility
- C. SDS hazard classification

D. Codon wobble

Answer: A

Question: 4

A Molecular Diagnostics Technologist receives extracted RNA that was left at room temperature for 5 hours after extraction. The laboratory procedure states that extracted RNA must be placed on ice during short handling periods and stored at -70°C if testing is delayed beyond 1 hour. The technologist notes that the specimen container is correctly labeled and the extraction control from the original run was acceptable.

Which action is most appropriate?

- A. Reject or recollect the specimen according to procedure because RNA stability requirements were exceeded
- B. Freeze the RNA now and report the result with no comment because the label is correct
- C. Dilute the RNA before amplification to compensate for possible degradation
- D. Proceed with testing because the extraction control was acceptable at the time of extraction

Answer: D

Question: 5

A molecular laboratory generates used extraction tubes containing residual guanidinium-based lysis buffer and biological specimen material. A technologist places the tubes into a regular trash container because the tubes are capped and no liquid is visible externally.

Which action is most appropriate?

- A. Dispose of the waste according to laboratory procedures for chemical and biohazardous waste
- B. Use regular trash because capped tubes are never hazardous
- C. Rinse the tubes in the sink and then discard them in regular trash
- D. Store the tubes indefinitely in the clean reagent freezer

Answer: A

Question: 6

A patient specimen produces no target amplification and a delayed internal control, suggesting inhibition. The procedure allows repeat testing after a validated dilution step to reduce inhibitors.

Which outcome would most support inhibition as the original problem?

- A. The diluted specimen has no internal-control amplification and no target signal again

- B. The diluted specimen shows acceptable internal-control amplification with interpretable target testing
- C. The no-template control becomes positive after patient dilution
- D. The positive control fails only after the patient specimen is removed from the run

Answer: B

Question: 7

A swab specimen for a molecular respiratory assay arrives in a transport medium not listed in the assay's validated specimen requirements. The specimen is labeled correctly and arrived within the acceptable transport time.

Which action is most appropriate?

- A. Follow the laboratory procedure for unvalidated transport medium before testing or reporting
- B. Test the specimen automatically because transport time and labeling are acceptable
- C. Add validated transport medium to the original tube and proceed without documentation
- D. Report the specimen as positive because unvalidated medium increases target concentration

Answer: A

Question: 8

A technologist prints a molecular assay procedure and keeps it at the bench for convenience. Three months later, the electronic controlled procedure is revised to change specimen rejection criteria, but the printed copy remains at the bench and is used during accession review.

Which quality concern is most important?

- A. Printed procedures are always more accurate than electronic controlled procedures
- B. Procedure version does not matter if the assay name is unchanged
- C. An uncontrolled outdated procedure may lead staff to apply incorrect acceptance criteria
- D. Outdated procedures are acceptable if only one technologist uses them

Answer: C

Question: 9

An NGS pipeline annotates a variant using transcript A, but the laboratory report template and validated interpretation workflow use transcript B. The amino acid numbering differs between transcripts.

Which action is most appropriate?

- A. Reconcile the annotation to the validated transcript before final interpretation and reporting

- B. Report both amino acid positions without explaining which transcript was used
- C. Ignore transcript differences because amino acid numbering is always identical
- D. Convert the annotation into a FISH signal count

Answer: A

Question: 10

Two specimens with similar patient names are processed side by side for DNA extraction. The technologist prints aliquot labels after opening both primary tubes and places unlabeled aliquot tubes in the rack temporarily.

Which workflow change most directly reduces misidentification risk?

- A. Rely on tube position only because similar names do not affect molecular testing
- B. Label aliquot tubes before transfer and process one specimen at a time according to identification procedure
- C. Label aliquots after extraction because DNA is easier to identify than primary specimens
- D. Use unlabeled aliquots if the technologist remembers the rack order

Answer: B

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