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NCCT-NCPT

National Certified Phlebotomy Technician Exam



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Question: 1

When an infection is spread through droplets, the phlebotomist is at risk when within

- A. 3 feet
- B. 5 feet
- C. 8 feet
- D. 10 feet

Answer: A

Explanation:

When an infection is spread through droplets, the phlebotomist is at risk within 3 feet of the infected person because droplets can travel 3 feet if the person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Infections that require droplet precautions include influenza, whooping cough, and rubella. The phlebotomist should wear a surgical-type protective mask as well as gloves whenever drawing blood on a patient with a respiratory infection or other infection spread by droplets.

Question: 2

Physician office laboratories are most often accredited by

- A. CLIA
- B. COLA
- C. CAP
- D. The Joint Commission

Answer: B

Explanation:

Physician office laboratories are most often accredited by COLA (Commission on Laboratory Accreditation), founded in 1988 with the original intent of inspecting and accrediting physician office laboratories to ensure that they were in compliance with CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments). COLA has since expanded its mission and now also accredits hospital laboratories as well as independent laboratories. CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and the Joint Commission have granted deeming authority to COLA.

Question: 3

If a lab sample is to be shipped to a reference laboratory for diagnostic studies, the required packaging is

- A. Single-container
- B. Double-container
- C. Triple-container
- D. Quadruple-container

Answer: C

Explanation:

If a lab sample is to be shipped to a reference laboratory for diagnostic studies, the required packaging is triple container. The three containers include the primary container that holds the specimen(s) and must also hold sufficient absorbent material to absorb the specimen if the specimen tube breaks. The second container must be waterproof to prevent any leakage. The third (and outer) container contains the mailing labels and must be labeled with the biohazard level.

Question: 4

Considering the order of the draw, which collection tube/bottle should be filled first?

- A. Light blue-capped tube
- B. Green-capped tube
- C. Red and black-capped tube
- D. Yellow-capped SPS tube

Answer: D

Explanation:

Considering the order of the draw, the collection tube that should be filled first is the yellow-capped (contains sodium polyanethol sulfonate [SPS]) blood culture tube to ensure that the specimen remains sterile with no contamination. This is followed by the light blue-capped tube (contains citrate additive). Next is the red and black-capped tube (which may or may not contain a clot activator or gel plasma separator) and last the green-capped tube (contains heparin).

Question: 5

When taking collection tubes with blood specimens from an isolation room, the specimens should be

- A. Sealed in a leak-proof plastic bag
- B. Covered with a sterile drape
- C. Placed in a labeled paper bag
- D. Transported as usual

Answer: A

Explanation:

When taking collection tubes with blood specimens from an isolation room, the specimens should be sealed in a leak-proof plastic bag. A notice should be posted on each isolation room outlining the type of isolation and the requirements for PPE. The phlebotomist must always follow these guidelines and must enter wearing gloves, and he or she should not take the phlebotomy tray into the room. Additionally, after the venipuncture and specimen collection is collected, all equipment except for the specimen containers must be left in the room in appropriate containers.

Question: 6

When using micro-collection tubes for a finger stick, the collection tube that should usually be filled first is

- A. Gray-capped
- B. Lavender-capped
- C. Green-capped
- D. Yellow-capped

Answer: B

Explanation:

When using micro-collection tubes for a finger stick, the collection tube that should usually be filled first is the lavender-capped tube (different from the order used with venipuncture) to ensure that the volume collected is sufficient for hematology tests. This is followed by other collection tubes that contain additives, and the plain tubes utilized for serum collection are filled last. In most cases, the first drop of blood is wiped away and the second drop of blood is collected.

Question: 7

In the United States, all laboratory testing, except for research, is regulated by

- A. CMS
- B. FDA
- C. C. CAP
- D. OSHA

Answer: A

Explanation:

In the United States, all laboratory testing, except for research, is regulated by CMS through the CLIA. CLIA is implemented through the Division of Laboratory Services and serves approximately 244,000 laboratories. Laboratories receiving reimbursement from CMS must meet CLIA standards, which ensure that laboratory testing will be accurate and procedures followed properly. The CDC partners with CMS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in supporting CLIA programs.

Question: 8

If a vein collapses during a blood draw, the initial action should be to

- A. Rotate the needle
- B. Insert the needle further into the vein
- C. Apply pressure above the venipuncture site
- D. Slightly withdraw the needle

Answer: C

Explanation:

If a vein collapses during a blood draw, the phlebotomist should apply gentle pressure on the vein above the venipuncture site with a flat index finger so that the vein fills with blood for a couple of seconds and then release, allowing the blood to continue to flow. Veins are most likely to collapse if blood was withdrawn too forcefully or if veins are small and fragile, such as may occur with older adults.

Question: 9

The laboratory test that is most affected by hemolysis is

- A. TP
- B. Ca
- C. acid phosphatase
- D. K

Answer: D

Explanation:

The laboratory test that is most affected by hemolysis is K (potassium). Other tests that are equally affected include LH (lactate dehydrogenase), AST (aspartate aminotransferase), and the CBC (complete blood count). Fe (serum iron), ALT (alanine aminotransferase), and T4 (thyroxine) are also noticeably affected. Tests that are only mildly affected include P (phosphorous), TP (total protein), albumin, Mg (magnesium), Ca (calcium), and acid phosphatase.

Question: 10

If a physician has ordered venipuncture for blood C&S, CBC, and BMP for an adult patient, what is the correct order of the draw (first to last)?

- A. C&S, CBC, BMP
- B. C&S, BMP, CBC
- C. CBC, BMP, C&S
- D. CBC, C&S, BMP

Answer: B

Explanation:

If a physician has ordered venipuncture for blood C&S (culture and sensitivities), CBC, and BMP (basic metabolic panel) for an adult patient, the correct order of the draw is (1) to collect the blood specimen for C&S so that the specimen remains sterile and not contaminated by additives; (2) the BMP, which can be performed on plasma or serum; and (3) the CBC, which requires whole blood for testing.

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