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Phlebotomy Certification Exam



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Question: 1

Transfer of an infectious agent via droplets larger than 5 µm in diameter is known as

- A. Airborne transmission
- B. Droplet transmission
- C. Vector transmission
- D. Vehicle transmission

Answer: B

Explanation:

Droplet transmission involves transfer of an infectious agent via droplets larger than 5 µm in diameter, whereas airborne transmission involves dispersal of infectious evaporated droplet nuclei less than 5 µm in diameter. In vector transmission, infectious agents are carried by insects, arthropods, or animals; in vehicle transmission, infectious agents are transmitted through contaminated food, water, or drugs.

Question: 2

Which of the following is an example of vector transmission?

- A. Tuberculosis
- B. Salmonella infection
- C. Bubonic plague
- D. HIV

Answer: C

Explanation:

The transmission of bubonic plague by fleas from rodents is an example of vector transmission; tuberculosis is spread via airborne transmission. Transmission of salmonella infection associated with handling contaminated food and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection through blood transfusion are examples of vehicle transmission.

Question: 3

Droplet transmission may result from

- A. Mosquito bite
- B. Kissing

- C. Contaminated food or water
- D. Throat swab

Answer: D

Explanation:

Droplet transmission may result from transfer of infectious agents by coughing, sneezing, or talking or through procedures such as throat swab collection. Vector transmission may result from mosquito or flea bites and vehicle transmission through contaminated food or water: transfer of an infectious agent through kissing or touching is known as direct contact transmission.

Question: 4

All of the following are prohibited under Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for hand hygiene EXCEPT

- A. Hand washing using plain soap and water
- B. Artificial nails
- C. Nails longer than one quarter inch
- D. Touching faucet handles after hand washing

Answer: A

Explanation:

Routine hand washing using plain soap and water is required to prevent spread of infection: alcohol-based antiseptic hand cleaners may also be used. Artificial nails or nails longer than one quarter inch are prohibited. After hand washing, a clean paper towel should be used to turn off the faucet to prevent contamination.

Question: 5

Protective isolation may be required for all of the following patients EXCEPT

- A. Neutropenic chemotherapy patients
- B. Burn patients
- C. Infants
- D. AIDS patients

Answer: C

Explanation:

Protective or reverse isolation may be required for patients highly susceptible to infection, such as burn patients, patients with AIDS, or chemotherapy patients with a low neutrophil count: protective isolation is usually not required for infants.

Question: 6

Which of the following statements regarding standard precautions for infection control is FALSE?

- A. Use both hands to recap needles
- B. Hands should be washed before putting on and after removing gloves
- C. Standard precautions apply to all secretions except sweat
- D. Resuscitation devices may be used as an alternative to the mouth-to-mouth method

Answer: A

Explanation:

Never use both hands to recap a needle; hands should be washed both before putting on and after removing gloves. Standard precautions should be followed for all body fluids except sweat: resuscitation devices may be used as an alternative to mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Question: 7

Use of an N95 respirator is NOT required in the case of

- A. A child with chickenpox
- B. A child with measles
- C. An adult immune to measles or chickenpox
- D. An adult who has never had measles or chickenpox

Answer: C

Explanation:

An N95 respirator must be worn by all individuals susceptible to measles or chickenpox before entering the room of a patient known or suspected to have these diseases; however, adults who are immune to measles or chickenpox are not required to wear an N95 respirator or surgical mask.

Question: 8

Which of the following is NOT a violation of general laboratory safety rules?

- A. Wearing a laboratory coat when leaving the lab
- B. Wearing nail polish
- C. Wearing large earrings
- D. Having shoulder-length hair

Answer: D

Explanation:

Shoulder-length or longer hair is acceptable in the laboratory if it is tied back; wearing nail polish or large or dangling earrings is not acceptable. A laboratory coat should never be worn when leaving the lab for any reason.

Question: 9

Which of the following statements regarding HBV is FALSE?

- A. HBV vaccine also protects against HDV
- B. HBV vaccine does not contain live virus
- C. HBV vaccine may pose a risk of HBV transmission
- D. HBV can survive up to 1 week in dried blood

Answer: C

Explanation:

HBV vaccine does not contain live virus and thus does not carry the risk of HBV infection; HBV vaccine also protects against hepatitis D virus (HDV) because it is only contracted concurrently with HBV. HBV can survive up to 1 week in dried blood on work surfaces or other objects.

Question: 10

HCV exposure may occur through

- A. Urine
- B. Sexual contact
- C. Semen
- D. Phlebotomy procedures

Answer: B

Explanation:

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection may occur through exposure to blood and serum and is primarily transmitted through sexual contact and needle sharing; however, it is rarely found in urine or semen and is not associated with phlebotomy procedures.

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