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NHA-Phlebotomy

National Healthcareer Association - Certified Phlebotomy
Technician (CPT) Exam



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Question: 1

The order of the draw for specimens obtained by capillary puncture is (first to last) :

- A. Other additives, EDTA, serum
- B. Serum, EDTA other additives
- C. EDTA serum, other additives
- D. EDTA, other additives, serum

Answer: D

Explanation:

The order of the draw for specimens obtained by capillary puncture is (first to last) EDTA specimens, specimens requiring other additives, then serum specimens. Puncturing the skin begins the coagulation process because the body responds to trauma with hemostasis and clotting, so the specimens should be obtained quickly, with the EDTA specimen collected first because this specimen will be used for hemat0100' studies and will be the most affected by clotting.

Question: 2

After cleansing the skin for a venipuncture, the phlebotomist should NOT:

- A. Allow the antiseptic to air dry.
- B. Cleanse a second time.
- C. Wipe the skin dry.
- D. Choose an alternate site.

Answer: C

Explanation:

After cleansing the skin for a venipuncture, the phlebotomist should not wipe the skin dry, but rather should allow the skin to air dry completely, which will take about 30 seconds. There is no prohibition against cleansing the skin a second time, and this may be necessary if the site is inadvertently contaminated. Applying the wet antiseptic is sometimes helpful in visualizing the vein, and the phlebotomist may choose an alternate site at any time.

Question: 3

If a small bench fire occurs in the laboratory, the first step in using the portable fire extinguisher is to:

- A. Pull the pin.

- B. Hold the extinguisher in an upright position and squeeze the trigger.
- C. Remove the seal.
- D. Aim the spray nozzle at the base of the flames.

Answer: A

Explanation:

If a small bench fire occurs in the laboratory, the first step in using the portable fire extinguisher is to pull the pin. The acronym PASS stands for the following:

- Pull the pin.
- Aim the spray nozzle at the base of the flames.
- Squeeze the trigger while holding the extinguisher in an upright position.
- Sweep the spray nozzle from side to side to cover the area of the fire with the spray.

Question: 4

Capillary action refers to:

- A. The ability of a capillary to dilate
- B. The ability of a capillary to constrict
- C. The ability of capillaries to form a bridge between venules and arterioles
- D. The ability of a liquid to be automatically drawn into a tube without gravity or force

Answer: D

Explanation:

Capillary action refers to the ability of a liquid to be automatically drawn into a tube without gravity or force. Capillary tubes and microhematocrit tubes fill by capillary action, and blood will rise into the tubes if they are held vertically to the blood drop, or blood will flow into the tubes if they are held horizontally to the blood drop. The end of the tube must stay at the drop and should not be moved because air may enter the tube, which may interfere with the test results.

Question: 5

The presence of a wheal indicates:

- A. Proper injection of a local anesthetic
- B. Positive TB test
- C. Positive Allen test
- D. Improper injection of the TB antigen

Answer: A

Explanation:

The presence of a wheal, or bleb, indicates proper injection of a local anesthetic prior to arterial puncture. A wheal also serves as indication of proper injection of the antigen during tuberculosis (TB) testing. A induration, or area of hardened tissue, indicates a positive TB reaction. A positive Allen test is indicated by the hand flushing pink or regaining normal coloration within 15 seconds.

Question: 6

Exchange of information contained in electronic health records is regulated by:

- A. FCC
- B. FDA
- C. HIPAA
- D. CDC

Answer: C

Explanation:

Exchange of information contained in electronic health records (EHRs) is regulated by HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). HIPAA mandates both privacy and security rules to ensure that all information contained in the EHR remains confidential with methods in place to limit access. Electronic health information must be safeguarded through security methods to ensure that non-permitted disclosures do not occur. Only those authorized to access a patient's EHR may do so.

Question: 7

When collecting samples for several tests including a blood culture, the specimen for the blood culture must be collected:

- A. Whenever it is convenient
- B. Last
- C. First
- D. After the blue-capped collection tube

Answer: C

Explanation:

When collecting samples for several tests including a blood culture, the specimen for the blood culture must be collected first to avoid possible contamination of the specimen. Blood culture collection tubes may vary in shape and color of cap, but all culture collection tubes contain media that promotes growth of microorganisms. Skin must be carefully cleansed with antiseptics prior to venipuncture so that bacteria on the surface of the skin do not contaminate the sample.

Question: 8

The artery that is most commonly used for arterial blood sampling is the:

- A. Radial
- B. Ulnar
- C. Brachial
- D. Axillary

Answer: A

Explanation:

The artery that is most commonly used for arterial blood sampling is the radial artery, which branches off of the brachial artery on the thumb side. The radial artery lies relatively close to the surface, so it is easier to access than arteries that are deeper in tissue. The ulnar artery also branches off of the brachial artery, but on the opposite (little finger) side. Arteries are oxygen- carrying vessels and are used primarily for blood gases because the levels of gases and the pH of the arterial blood are critically important.

Question: 9

Proper technique for needle insertion includes:

- A. Pushing down on the needle
- B. Using a C hold
- C. Using an L hold
- D. Advancing the needle slowly

Answer: C

Explanation:

The proper technique for anchoring the vein before venipuncture is known as the L hold technique. It involves using the fingers to support the back of the patients arm below the elbow and placing the thumb 1 to 2 inches below and slightly to the side of the venipuncture site to pull the patient's skin toward the wrist. The C hold technique, or the two-finger technique, should not be used because it may result in the needle springing back into the phlebotomist's index finger if the patient pulls his or her arm back. Pushing down on the needle during insertion is painful and may increase the risk of blood leakage. Advancing the needle too slowly may prolong the patients discomfort.

Question: 10

To reduce the risk of transmission of a bloodborne pathogen via an open wound, the phlebotomist should:

- A. Cleanse the wound with bleach.
- B. Cleanse the wound with an antiseptic.
- C. Cleanse the wound with soap and water.
- D. Squeeze the wound to release fluid.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Cleansing the wound with plain soap and water for at least 30 seconds is useful in reducing the risk of transmission of a bloodborne pathogen via an open wound. Squeezing the wound or cleansing the wound with an antiseptic, bleach, or other caustic agent is not recommended.

Question: 11

Which of the following tests CANNOT be carried out on a specimen obtained through heelstick or other capillary blood sample?

- A. CBC
- B. Glucose (bedside)
- C. Blood gas analysis
- D. Blood cultures

Answer: D

Explanation:

Blood cultures cannot be carried out on a specimen obtained through heelstick or other capillary samples because there is a potential for contamination and because blood cultures require large volumes of blood. Coagulation studies also cannot be carried out with a capillary sample. Capillary samples can only be used if a small quantity of blood is necessary. Tests that can be carried out using capillary samples include most chemistries, CBC, blood gas analysis, toxicology tests, liver function tests, and newborn screening. Capillary collection may be used for infants as well as adults.

Question: 12

How long after a patient undergoing a C-urea breath test has completed the baseline exhalation sample and swallowed the synthetic urea solution should the second exhalation sample be taken?

- A. 5 minutes
- B. 10 minutes
- C. 15 minutes
- D. 30 minutes

Answer: C

Explanation:

For the C-urea breath test, used to detect *Helicobacter pylori* infection (a common cause of stomach and duodenal ulcers), the patient exhales into a Mylar balloon for a baseline breath sample and then drinks a solution containing synthetic urea, which contains carbon-13. A second exhalation sample is then obtained 15 minutes after the patient ingests the solution. If *H. pylori* is present, it will metabolize the synthetic urea and release CO₂ containing the carbon-13, which can be detected in the breath sample.

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