



## Phlebotomy Technician Certification (PTC) Exam Blueprint

Job Task List	Weight	# of Items
<b>1. Patient Care</b> 1.01 Perform phlebotomy tasks while maintaining patient guarantees under "The Patient Care Partnership (Patient Bill of Rights)". 1.02 Explain specimen collection procedures to patients to obtain cooperation and reduce anxiety. 1.03 Monitor patients' comfort and safety during and after collection procedures, alerting medical staff or supervisor to abnormalities or changes in patient responses. 1.04 Obtains informed consent from patient following appropriate procedures 1.05 Perform basic emergency care activities (e.g., first aid, CPR, rapid response procedures), alerting medical staff or supervisor. 1.06 Document patient and collection information electronically or in hard copy format. 1.07 Comply with laws related to medical records and confidentiality (e.g., HIPAA). 1.08 Comply with laws governing reportable incidents (e.g., mistakes, poor patient outcomes, etc.) 1.09 Monitor quality assurance in the collection of blood specimens.	15%	15
<b>2. Patient Identification and Site Preparation</b> 2.01 Identify patients using the proper procedures (e.g., wristband, verbal response, date-of-birth, last four digits of SSN, photo identification) specified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. 2.02 Measure and record vital signs, such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate, or respiration rate, as directed by medical or nursing staff. 2.03 Evaluate pre-test conditions for patient prior to collection (e.g., fasting, medication, fistula). 2.04 Assess pre-analytical practices that can affect results positively or negatively (e.g., heating pads, fist pumping). 2.05 Determine donor suitability according to interview results, vital signs, and medical history. 2.06 Identify appropriate collection site based on test ordered, accessibility, and patient age or condition (as regulated by state or doctor's orders). 2.07 Recognize the difference between a vein and artery when identifying collection site. 2.08 Prepare the site for blood collection (e.g., locate and stabilize the vein, cleaning the area) based on location and test ordered, using proper procedures. 2.09 Apply and release the tourniquet appropriately. 2.10 Position the patient for collection procedures.	17%	17
<b>3. Order and Equipment Selection</b> 3.01 Recognize commonly ordered tests and the tubes needed for collection. 3.02 Select appropriate equipment for the collection procedure and type of patient (e.g., pediatrics, geriatrics, etc.). 3.03 Select proper antiseptic agents for the test ordered. 3.04 Organize or clean blood-drawing trays, ensuring that all instruments are sterile and all needles, syringes, or related items are of first-time use. 3.05 Prepare and maintain machines/equipment for specimen collection, such as those used for plasma collection. 3.06 Identify additives/anticoagulants added to evacuated blood collection tubes. 3.07 Assess the mode of action of additives/anticoagulants in blood collection tubes. 3.08 Select proper bandaging equipment.	14%	14
<b>4. Specimen Collection</b> 4.01 Collect samples using Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute's recommended order of draw. 4.02 Draw blood from veins by vacuum tube or other venipuncture methods. 4.03 Draw blood from capillaries by dermal puncture, such as heel or finger stick methods. 4.04 Draw blood using appropriate collection procedures (e.g., enter at 15 to 30 degree angle, bevel side of needle face up, etc.). 4.05 Collect specimens on difficult to draw patients using appropriate techniques. 4.06 Prevent interference in clinical analysis of blood constituents (e.g., iodine, alcohol, edema, IV fluids, etc.). 4.07 Take precautions for patients with special needs (e.g., bleeding disorders, IV, burns, dementia, etc.). 4.08 Collect non-blood fluid samples, using appropriate collection procedures. 4.09 Recognize and respond to pre- and post-collection complications during specimen collection (e.g., syncope, hematoma, excessive bleeding, hemoconcentration, hemolysis, etc.) 4.10 Collect specimens at specific time intervals for tests, such as those assessing therapeutic drug levels. 4.11 Perform appropriate post-puncture care for the patient. 4.12 Label blood specimens appropriately.	20%	20
<b>5. Specimen Processing and Handling</b> 5.01 Assess the suitability of specimens for analysis (e.g., amount of specimen). 5.02 Process blood samples for further analysis by other medical professionals (e.g., aliquoting, labeling, packaging).	20%	20

5.03 Conduct standard point-of-care tests, such as urinalysis, hemoglobin and hematocrit, coagulation, pregnancy test, glucose, etc.		
5.04 Process non-blood specimens (e.g., urine, sputum, stool, swabs, etc.) for further analysis by other medical professionals.		
5.05 Report results and critical values for point of care procedures.		
5.06 Deliver specimens to the laboratory appropriately (e.g., temperature, light, time).		
5.07 Store specimens according to appropriate procedures related to specific purpose of the collection.		
5.08 Transport specimens or fluid samples from collection sites to laboratories.		
5.09 Document route of specimens from collection to laboratory.		
5.10 Take corrective action for problems with specimen processing or transport.		
5.11 Comply with laws and standards governing specimen collection as related to reliability and accuracy in lab testing.		
5.12 Comply with chain of custody collection requirements (e.g., paternity testing, drug screening, etc.).		
<b>6. Safety and Infection Control</b>	14%	14
6.01 Use the proper personal protective equipment to ensure patient and personal safety at all times.		
6.02 Prevent infection by using universal standard and transmission based precautions.		
6.03 Activate safety mechanisms on phlebotomy equipment appropriately.		
6.04 Dispose of blood or other biohazard fluids, in accordance with applicable laws, standards, or policies.		
6.05 Dispose of contaminated sharps, in accordance with applicable laws, standards, and policies.		
6.06 Clean and disinfect all equipment and facilities		
6.07 Respond to emergency situations, such as emergency medical calls, security calls, or fire alarms.		
6.08 Adhere to regulations regarding workplace safety (e.g., OSHA, MSDS, NFPA).		
<b>Total:</b>	100%	100*

\* This number indicates the number of scored items on the certification exam. All AMCA certification exams are subject to pilot testing, meaning that there could be additional unscored items on the exam. The scored items will be from a current operational form of our exam. The unscored items will be new items that data is being collected on. The unscored items will not have any effect on the candidate's score and/or their pass/fail decision.

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