Medical Tests

NHA-CPT

National Healthcareer Association: Certified Phlebotomy Technician

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Question: 1

What is sputum?

A. Fluid in the stool
B. Mucus/phlegm discharged in the urine
C. Mucus/phlegm coughed out from respiratory tract
D. Vomit

Answer: C

Explanation:
At times, it may be pertinent to collect mucus that is coughed up by the patient. Cultures run on sputum indicate lower airway diseases. If an infection is suspected, the phlebotomist should take standard precautions.

Question: 2

Which of the following is an example of ethical standards applicable to the practice of phlebotomy?

A. The patient does not have the right to refuse treatment
B. The phlebotomist must be considerate of patient privacy
C. The phlebotomist can share details about patients only with immediate family members
D. Explaining the venipuncture procedure is not a part of informed consent

Answer: B

Explanation:
It is important to remember to be discreet in approaching the patient. Often the phlebotomist may be in the room at the time another procedure is being performed, the patient is completing personal hygiene, or the physician is examining the patient. Under all these different circumstances, it is necessary to approach the patient and the situation in a mature fashion.

Question: 3

Which of the following is not an agency which regulates the transportation of clinical specimens?

A. Drug Enforcement Agency
B. Department of Revenue
C. Federal Aviation Administration
D. Department of Transportation

Answer: B

Explanation:
The healthcare industry is heavily regulated by various state and federal agencies which extend to the shipping of clinical specimens. These specimens can contain dangerous pathogens or infectious agents, and they must be closely watched. This being said, it is not the function of the Department of Revenue to regulate the shipping of clinical specimens.

Question: 4

The purpose of properly greeting the patient is to:

A. Gain the patient's trust and decrease the patient's anxiety
B. Ensure accurate billing details
C. Choose the correct phlebotomy equipment for the patient
D. Make the procedure go faster

Answer: A

Explanation:
Gaining the patient's trust is the most important part of developing a good relationship with the patient and is a responsibility shared by the whole patient care team. Often, the phlebotomist will be one of the first clinical staff the patient meets and therefore has one of the best opportunities to make a good first impression. Establishing eye contact, providing a clear introduction, and maintaining confident body language are key in starting a good patient relationship and decreasing the patient's anxiety.

Question: 5

Which of the following is not considered part of properly greeting the patient?

A. Making eye contact
B. Describing your role in the patient's care
C. Reading the patient's chart
D. Introducing yourself

Answer: C

Explanation:
When greeting a patient, introduce yourself with your name and role, make eye contact to ensure the patient is attentive, and describe the venipuncture procedure.
While the patient's chart is important, it does not contain the information a phlebotomist needs to greet the patient and develop trust. Reading the patient's chart should not be performed at this time.

Question: 6

To calculate total blood volume in an elderly patient at risk of iatrogenic anemia, which is the most appropriate conversion factor?

A. 1 liter (L) of blood per 1 kilogram (kg) of body weight
B. 7 milliliters (mL) of blood per 1 kilogram (kg) of body weight
C. 100 milliliters (mL) of blood per 1 kilogram (kg) of body weight
D. 70 milliliters (mL) of blood per 1 kilogram (kg) of body weight

Answer: D

Explanation:
The average adult blood volume is 70 mL/kg of body weight.
100 mL/kg is the average blood volume for newborn babies who do not have the bones or muscle tissue that adults do.

Question: 7

At least how full must all anticoagulated blood tubes be filled?

A. 50%
B. 25%
C. 75%
D. 90%

Answer: C

Explanation:
Anticoagulated tubes generally do not need to be filled to 100% and can include air if necessary. The anticoagulation additives often alter the sample to the point where other tests cannot be run on the sample, so the minimum required amount is 75% of the tube.

Question: 8

Emma is obtaining a microcollection blood sample from a newborn via capillary puncture. She should be careful to avoid the central arch area of the baby's foot because:

A. There's an increased risk of puncturing bones there
B. Puncture here may result in nerve damage
C. The posterior tibial artery is located there
D. It is the most sensitive area

Answer: B

Explanation:

Puncture in the central arch area of the foot may result in damage to nerves, tendons, and cartilage. Additionally, it offers no advantage over a heel puncture, so it is not recommended.

Question: 9

A patient who has been fasting before a blood test presents confused and weak. What complication should the phlebotomist suspect?

A. Cardiac illness
B. Infection
C. Hypoglycemia
D. Stroke

Answer: C

Explanation:
The signs of syncope mimic the signs of hypoglycemia very closely with the one major difference of confusion. Patients who have a low blood sugar become confused, sometimes to the point that they appear intoxicated or as though they may be suffering from a stroke. It is vital for the phlebotomist to be aware of this distinction.

Question: 10

Difficult draws are best performed with a:

A. Capillary puncture
B. Butterfly system
C. Finger stick
D. Intravenous catheter

Answer: B

Explanation:
The butterfly system is the most appropriate method for difficult sticks because the phlebotomist has the most control over the butterfly needle and the needle itself is very small, allowing puncture in small veins.

Question: 11

The purified protein derivative (PPD) test is used to determine what communicable disease?

A. HIV
B. Meningitis
C. A viral infection
D. Tuberculosis

Answer: D

Explanation:
The purified protein derivative (PPD) test is an injection of 0.1 mL 5-TU (toxin unit) PPD directly under the skin to produce a wheal, which is a white, raised bump. This test is only for tuberculosis and is often a skill required of phlebotomists.

Question: 12

What does the term "vasodilation" refer to?

A. Increased cardiac output
B. The opening of the lungs
C. The constriction of the veins and arteries
D. The widening of the veins and arteries

Answer: D

Explanation:
Vasodilation refers to the widening of the vessels that carry blood. "Vaso" refers to vasculature (arteries and veins) and "dilation" means to widen. The phlebotomist must understand this concept as many patients may be on drugs that cause vasodilation.

Question: 13

What does the Hemoccult card test for?

A. Lymphocytes in vomit
B. Blood in the stool
C. Blood in vomit
D. Microorganisms in the stool

Answer: B

Explanation:
Hemoccult cards are cardboard testing cards designed to test for blood in feces. If the phlebotomist's employer allows, the phlebotomist may be asked to perform this test, which consists of adding a fecal sample and developer to the card.

Question: 14

When shipping samples long distances, what must be placed on the outside of the shipping container?

A. Patient name and address

B. Clinic/hospital name and address
C. Unique patient identifying information
D. Biohazard label

Answer: D

Explanation:
When shipping samples long distances, any container that the samples are in must have a biohazard label on the outside. This is important because the samples may be shipped with other non-medical packages and the samples themselves may be in several other containers. Any patient identifying information that is exposed to persons not involved in the care of the patient is a HIPAA violation.

Question: 15

What is the purpose of chilling samples in an ice and water bath?

A. To slow down metabolic processes and preserve sample integrity
B. To increase microorganism metabolism and replication
C. To speed up the freezing process
D. To prevent serum alcohol levels from artificially dropping

Answer: A

Explanation:
The chilling of samples is sometimes required to allow for proper testing results. As temperature decreases, so does the metabolic rate of blood products and microorganisms. Freezing samples damages them beyond repair, so this should be avoided.

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