Medical Technology

PTC-AMCA

AMCA Phlebotomy Technician Certification Exam

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Question: 1

Transfer of an infectious agent via droplets larger than 5 gm 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 gm in diameter, whereas airborne transmission involves dispersal of infectious evaporated droplet nuclei less than 5 gm 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 though handling contaminated food and transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection via a blood transfusion are examples of vehicle transmission.

Question: 3

Droplet transmission may result from:

A. Mosquito bites
B. Kissing
C. Contaminated food or water

D. Throat swab collection

Answer: D

Explanation:
Droplet transmission may result from transfer of an infectious agent by coughing, sneezing, or talking, or through procedures such as throat swab collection. Vector transmission may result from mosquito or flea bites. Vehicle transmission is the transfer of an infectious agent though 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 and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for hand hygiene in healthcare settings EXCEPT:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:
In healthcare settings, routine handwashing 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 handwashing, 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 isolation, or reverse isolation, may be required for patients who are 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, or even one hand, to recap a needle. If a needle must be recapped, the cap should be placed in a cap-holding device or on a solid surface and the needle slid into it. 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

The phlebotomist is NOT required to use an N95 (or equivalent) respirator when entering the room of a patient with which of the following communicable diseases, even when the phlebotomist is not immune to the disease?

A. Chickenpox
B. Measles
C. Influenza
D. COVID-19

Answer: C

Explanation:
An N95 or equivalent respirator must be worn by all healthcare personnel entering the room of a patient known or suspected to have a disease that is spread through airborne transmission if the healthcare worker is not immune to the disease. These diseases include chickenpox, measles, COVID-19, and tuberculosis. Many healthcare facilities require the use of N95 or equivalent respirators by all personnel who may be exposed to these diseases even if they are immune due to vaccination or previous infection. However, for diseases that are spread through droplet transmission, such as influenza and the common cold, a surgical mask provides adequate protection.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:
The 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 HDV 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.

Question: 11

Which of the following POC tests measures the volume of RBCs in a patient's blood?

A. Hgb
B. Hct
C. INR
D. Na

Answer: B

Explanation:
Hematocrit (Hct), also called packed cell volume (PCV), measures the volume of RBCs in a patient's blood. A small sample of anticoagulated blood is centrifuged; the results reflect the percentage of cells to liquid. The normal hematocrit value varies according to gender and age:

Age	Male	Female
0 to 1 week	46–68	46–68
1 to 2 months	32–54	32–54
3 months to 5 years	31–43	31–43
6 to 8 years	33–41	33–41
15 to adult	38–51	33–45
Older adult	36–52	34–46

Question: 12

If category B infectious materials must be transported out of the area for testing, specimens must not exceed:

A. 200 or 200 g
B. 300 or 300 g
C. 400 mL or 400 g
D. 500 mL or 500 g

Answer: D

Explanation:
If category B infectious materials must be transported out of the area for testing, specimens must not exceed 500 mL or 500 g. The sample must be triple wrapped. The inner container must be watertight and have a screw-on cap. This container must be wrapped in absorbent material and placed in a leakproof bag, which is then placed in a third outer container made of rigid material (wood, metal, plastic, or corrugated fiberboard). Ice or dry ice is placed around the secondary container. The outer container must be leakproof if ice is used.

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