American Society for Clinical Pathology
Board of Certification

DONOR PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN, DPT(ASCP)

EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE

This document should serve as a useful guide for examination preparation. The Board of Certification criterion-referenced examinations are constructed to measure the competencies described in the Certification Levels Definitions. These competency statements are specified into task definitions, linked to each of the content outlines, and measured by the test items.

It should be noted that, for the Donor Phlebotomy Technician the Certification Levels Definitions refer to skills and abilities expected of career entry, not those that may be acquired with subsequent experience.

Knowledge
The Donor Phlebotomy Technician has a working comprehension of the technical and procedural aspects of donor phlebotomy. The Donor Phlebotomy Technician maintains awareness of and compliance with both safety procedures and ethical standards of practice. The Donor Phlebotomy Technician understands basic physiologic principles associated with appropriate donor selection.

Technical Skills
Follows established procedures for collecting, handling and transporting blood products.

The Donor Phlebotomy Technician comprehends and follows procedural guidelines to perform donor related tests including (1) specimen collection, handling and transport; (2) instrument operation and troubleshooting; (3) result reporting and record documentation; (4) quality control monitoring; (5) computer applications and (6) safety requirements.

Problem Solving and Decision Making
Recognizes unexpected donor related results and instrument malfunctions and takes appropriate action.

The Donor Phlebotomy Technician recognizes the existence of procedural and technical problems and takes corrective action according to predetermined criteria or refers the problem to the appropriate supervisor. The Donor Phlebotomy Technician prioritizes requests to maintain standard donor care and maximal efficiency.

Communication
Provides information to authorized sources.

The Donor Phlebotomy Technician is able to communicate appropriately with other health care personnel and donors concerning the policies and operation of the Blood Donor Service.

Teaching and Training Responsibilities
Demonstrates technical skills to other personnel.

The Donor Phlebotomy Technician trains new Donor Phlebotomy Technician and Donor Phlebotomy Technician students and maintains technical competency.

THE EXAMINATION MODEL

The Board of Certification criterion-referenced examination model consists of three interrelated components:

Competency Statements describe the entry-level skills and tasks performed by Donor Phlebotomy Technicians and measured on the examination.

Content Outline delineates general categories or subtest areas of the examination.

Taxonomy Levels describe the cognitive skills required to answer the questions.

Level 1 – Recall:	Ability to recall or recognize previously learned (memorized) knowledge ranging from specific facts to complete theories.
Level 2 - Interpretive Skills:	Ability to utilize recalled knowledge to interpret or apply verbal, numeric or visual data.
Level 3 - Problem Solving:	Ability to utilize recalled knowledge and interpretation/application of distinct criteria to resolve a problem or situation and/or make an appropriate decision.

EXAMINATION REPORTING MECHANISMS

After the examination has been administered and scored, a report is sent to the examinee. The Examinee Performance Report provides the scaled score on the total examination and pass/fail status for all candidates.

In addition, failing candidates receive scaled scores for each subtest (see content outline for subtests). This information may help the examinee identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in order to develop a study plan for future examinations. A total score of 400 is required to pass the examination.

COMPETENCY STATEMENTS
DONOR PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

In regard to Basic Science, Blood Collection, Blood Processing and Handling and Donor Center Operations related to Donor Phlebotomy, and in accordance with established procedures, the Donor Phlebotomy Technician:

APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF
- principles of basic procedures
- potential sources of complications
- standard operating procedures
- medical terminology
- safety measures/infection control
- fundamental biological characteristics
- basic donor related regulatory requirements

SELECTS APPROPRIATE
- course of action
- equipment/methods/donor/blood product collection/quality control procedures
- site for blood collection

PREPARES DONOR AND EQUIPMENT

EVALUATES
- specimen and donor situation
- quality control procedures
- appropriate actions and methods
- possible sources of error or inconsistencies
- common procedural/technical problems
- corrective actions
- donor response to the procedure
- results of basic donor related clinical assessment

CONTENT OUTLINE
DONOR PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

Refer to the DPT Competency Statements for the competencies tested in each subtest.

I. Basic Science (15 - 20%)

- A. Basic Structure and Function of the Circulatory System
  1. Heart
  2. Arteries
  3. Veins
- B. Basic Composition/Function of Blood
  1. Types of blood (venous, capillary, arterial)
  2. Plasma
  3. Serum
  4. Cellular elements (RBC, WBC, Platelets)
- C. Basic Blood Typing/Compatibility
  1. ABO
  2. Rh

II. Blood Collection (30 - 50%)

- A. Donor Identification/Verification
- B. Donor Selection
  1. Interview
  2. Physical assessment
  3. Hgb/Hct evaluation
- C. Phlebotomy Process
  1. Site selection
  2. Site Preparation
  3. Venipuncture
- D. Special Donor Considerations (e.g. petechiae, edema, occluded veins)
  1. Allogeneic
  2. Autologous
- E. Adverse Events
  1. Low Volume
  2. Arterial puncture
  3. Incomplete collection
  4. Donor reactions (e.g. hematoma, fainting)
- F. Supplies (e.g. additives, needles, scales)

III. Blood Processing and Handling (10 - 25%)

- A. Labeling
- B. Transport
- C. Storage
- D. Equipment (e.g. centrifuge)

IV. Donor Center Operations (15 - 25%)

- A. Safety
  1. Personal (e.g. OSHA Guidelines)
  2. Equipment
  3. Donor center (e.g. fire, chemical)
  4. Infection control
- B. Quality Control
  1. Techniques
  2. Equipment
- C. Communication
  1. Donor
  2. Other healthcare professionals
- D. Basic Donor Related Regulatory Requirements

All Board of Certification examinations use conventional units for results and reference ranges.

END OF CONTENT GUIDELINE