

# DONOR PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN, DPT(ASCP)

## EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE

### EXAMINATION MODEL

The DPT(ASCP) certification examination is composed of 90 questions given in a 2 hour 30 minute time frame. All exam questions are multiple-choice with one best answer. The certification exam is administered using the format of computer adaptive testing (CAT).

With CAT, when a person answers a question correctly, the next test question has a slightly higher level of difficulty. The difficulty level of the questions presented to the examinee continues to increase until a question is answered incorrectly. Then a slightly easier question is presented. In this way, the test is tailored to the individual's ability level.

Each question in the test bank is calibrated for level of difficulty and is classified by content area. The content area aligns with the examination specific content outline. The examinee must answer enough questions correctly to achieve a measure above the pass point in order to successfully pass the certification examination. There is no set number of questions one must answer to pass, nor is there a set percentage one must achieve to pass. If at the end of the exam the examinee's score is above the pass point, then he or she passes the exam.

### EXAMINATION CONTENT AREAS

The DPT certification exam questions encompass the following content areas within Donor Phlebotomy: Basic Science, Donor Identification and Selection, Donor Blood Collection and Handling, Donor Considerations, and Donor Center Operations. Each of these content areas comprise a specific percentage of the overall 90-question exam. The content areas and percentages are described below:

CONTENT AREA	DESCRIPTION	EXAM PERCENTAGE
<b>BASIC SCIENCE</b>	Structure and Function of the Circulatory System, Composition and Function of Blood, and Blood Compatibility (e.g., donor vs recipient)	<b>5 – 15%</b>
<b>DONOR IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION</b>	Donor Identification/Verification and Donor Selection (interview and physical assessment)	<b>25 – 35%</b>
<b>DONOR BLOOD COLLECTION AND HANDLING</b>	Phlebotomy Process, Phlebotomy Supplies/Equipment, and Donor Blood Transport and Storage	<b>30 – 40%</b>
<b>DONOR CONSIDERATIONS</b>	Special Donor Categories (directed, autologous, therapeutic), Donor Concerns (e.g., petechiae, occluded veins, scarring, edema), and Adverse Donation Events	<b>10 – 20%</b>
<b>DONOR CENTER OPERATIONS</b>	Safety (e.g., OSHA guidelines), Quality Assurance, Quality Control, and Donor-Related Regulatory Compliance (e.g., HIPAA, CDC, FDA)	<b>10 – 15%</b>

For a more specific overview of DPT exam, please refer to the **CONTENT OUTLINE** on page 2.

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## EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

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Examination questions, which are related to the subtest areas outlined below, may be both theoretical and/or procedural. Theoretical questions measure skills necessary to apply knowledge. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to evaluate donor eligibility, prepare donor and equipment, perform collection, and follow quality assurance protocols. Additionally, regulatory questions are based on U.S. sources (e.g., AABB, FDA, CLIA, etc.).

**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT COVID-19:** FDA guidance for changes in donor eligibility during the COVID-19 pandemic are to ensure an adequate blood supply and only apply for the duration of the pandemic. Donor eligibility questions are based on pre-pandemic requirements and will not reflect temporary changes.

### I. BASIC SCIENCE (5 – 15%)

#### A. Structure and Function of the Circulatory System

1. Heart
2. Arteries
3. Veins

#### B. Composition and Function of Blood

1. Types of blood (e.g., venous, capillary, arterial)
2. Plasma
3. Serum
4. Cellular elements (RBC, WBC, platelets)

#### C. Blood Compatibility (e.g., donor vs. recipient)

1. ABO
2. Rh
3. HLA antibodies

#### D. Terminology

### II. DONOR IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION (25 – 35%)

#### A. Donor Identification/Verification

#### B. Donor Selection

1. Interview
  - a. Whole blood
  - b. Platelet
2. Physical assessment
  - a. Hgb/Hct evaluation
  - b. Pulse
  - c. Blood pressure
  - d. Temperature

#### C. Terminology

### III. DONOR BLOOD COLLECTION AND HANDLING (30 – 40%)

#### A. Phlebotomy Process

1. Site selection
2. Site preparation
3. Labeling
4. Venipuncture
5. Post-donation instructions

#### B. Supplies/Equipment (e.g., additives, collection kits, scales)

#### C. Handling

1. Transport
2. Storage

#### D. Terminology

### IV. DONOR CONSIDERATIONS (10 – 20%)

#### A. Special Donor Categories

1. Directed
2. Autologous
3. Therapeutic

#### B. Concerns (e.g., petechiae, occluded veins, scarring, edema)

#### C. Adverse Events

1. Low volume/incomplete collection
2. Arterial puncture
3. Donor reactions (e.g., hematoma, fainting)

#### D. Terminology

## **V. DONOR CENTER OPERATIONS (10 – 15%)**

### **A. Safety (e.g., OSHA Guidelines)**

1. Personal (e.g., PPE, Standard Precautions)
2. Equipment
3. Donor center (e.g., fire, chemical)
4. Infection control

### **B. Quality Assurance and Control**

1. Techniques
2. Equipment and materials
3. Variance/incident/error reports

### **C. Donor-Related Regulatory Compliance (e.g., HIPAA, CDC, FDA)**

### **D. Terminology**

Examples provided (as indicated by e.g.) are not limited to those listed.

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

***END OF CONTENT GUIDELINE***