ASCP BOARD OF CERTIFICATION

VALID ONLY FOR QIA TESTING DATES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

QUALIFICATION IN APHERESIS (QIA)

EXAMINATION TOPIC OUTLINE

The Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) examination questions encompass different topics or content areas within Apheresis: Basic Science, Clinical Applications, Donor/Patient Care, Instrumentation, Operational Considerations, and Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations. Each of these content areas comprises a specific percentage of the overall 50-question qualification examination.

Exam questions may be both theoretical and/or procedural. Theoretical questions measure skills necessary to apply knowledge. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to perform apheresis techniques and follow quality assurance protocols. Additionally, regulatory questions are based on U.S. sources (e.g., AABB, FDA, CLIA, etc.). The content areas and percentages are described in detail below.

I. Basic Science (10 – 15%)

- A. Hematology/Coagulation
- B. Immunohematology/Genetics
  1. Blood component therapy
  2. HLA
  3. ABO
- C. Immunology
  1. Antibodies
  2. Immune complexes
- D. Laboratory Testing

II. Clinical Applications (15 – 25%)

- A. Donor Apheresis
  1. Platelets
  2. Red blood cells
  3. Plasma
  4. White blood cells (e.g., granulocytes)
- B. Therapeutic Apheresis
  1. Plasma exchange
  2. Red blood cell exchange
  3. Cellular reductions
  4. Selective adsorption/filtration procedures
- C. Cellular Therapy
  1. Hematopoietic progenitor cells (HPCs)
  2. Extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP)
  3. Mononuclear cell collections (e.g., lymphocytes, monocytes)
- D. Diseases Treated with Apheresis

III. Donor/Patient Care (30 – 40%)

- A. Assessment/Monitoring
- B. Replacement Fluids
- C. Anticoagulation
- D. Medications (e.g., calcium, antihistamine) and Drug Interactions
- E. Venous Access
- F. Fluid Balance
- G. Age-Related Considerations
- H. Adverse Reactions

IV. Operational Considerations (15 – 25%)

- A. Quality Assurance (e.g., cGMP, cGTP, validation)
- B. Quality Control
  1. Product yield
  2. Instrument efficiencies
- C. Instrumentation (Note: Instrumentation questions will address general processes and procedures applicable to most instruments.)
  1. Theories and techniques of separation (e.g., centrifugation [intermittent and continuous flow])
  2. General principles of automated instruments
- D. Equipment Maintenance
- E. Safety (e.g., OSHA, CDC)
- F. Infection Control

V. Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations (ASFA, AABB, CAP, FDA, FACT-JACIE, HIPAA, etc.) (10 – 15%)

- A. Informed Consent
- B. Confidentiality
- C. Donor Selection
- D. Facility Licensure and Accreditation
- E. Training and Competency

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 ranges.

END OF TOPIC OUTLINE