

# LABORATORY ASSISTING, 51.0802.00

## APPLY STANDARD PRECAUTIONS AND SAFETY MEASURES PCT1.0

**1.1** Demonstrate knowledge of communicable diseases and blood borne pathogens PCT1.1

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**1.2** Use Universal Precautions according to OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and use Transmission-based Precautions according to CDC (Center for Disease Control) PCT1.2

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**1.3** Use proper hand hygiene according CDC (Center for Disease Control) PCT1.3

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**1.4** Don, remove, and discard PPE (personal protective equipment such as gloves, gowns, masks, lab coats, goggles, and face shields) according to standard procedure PCT1.4

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**1.5** Demonstrate knowledge of isolation and the use of isolation procedures PCT1.5

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**1.6** Comply with hazardous labeling requirements according to OSHA (e.g., safety signs, symbols, and special instructions) PCT1.6

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**1.7** Describe procedures for cleaning laboratory spills PCT1.7

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**1.8** Handle and dispose of contaminated and hazardous items according to OSHA guidelines PCT1.8

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**1.9** Use fire and chemical safety protocols (e.g., SDSs and the use of fire extinguishers) PCT1.9

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**1.10** Describe evacuation plans used by various facilities and statewide alert codes PCT1.10

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**1.11** Maintain a clean work area (e.g., cleaning agents, Clorox, and other disinfectants ) PCT1.11

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**1.12** Maintain a safe work environment (e.g., proper storage of equipment, materials, and chemicals; proper containment of food and personal items; hair tied back and minimal jewelry) PCT1.12

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**1.13** Use equipment, materials, and chemicals according to manufacturer guidelines PCT1.13

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**1.14 Report unsafe conditions for self and others (e.g., frayed cords, spillages, puddles on floor, and bed rails down)** [PCT1.14](#)

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**1.15 Demonstrate proper body mechanics and lifting techniques** [PCT1.15](#)

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**MAINTAIN THE  
LABORATORY  
ACCORDING TO  
INDUSTRY  
REGULATIONS AND  
STANDARDS** [PCT2.0](#)

**2.1 Comply with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines for the laboratory [e.g., CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), CDC (Center for Disease Control), OSHA, CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment)]** [PCT2.1](#)

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**2.2 Adhere to CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) regulations and their impact on laboratory functions and procedures** [PCT2.2](#)

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**2.3 Comply with voluntary accrediting and inspection agency requirements [e.g., CAP (College of American Pathologists), Joint Commission, and AABB (American Association of Blood Banks)]** [PCT2.3](#)

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**2.4 Communicate test results, reference ranges, and specimen requirements to authorized sources according to HIPPA guidelines** [PCT2.4](#)

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**2.5 Assess active involvement in local, state, and national associations and organizations (people and resources) to keep up-to-date regarding the industry** [PCT2.5](#)

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**DEMONSTRATE LEGAL  
AND ETHICAL  
PRACTICES** [PCT3.0](#)

**3.1 Recognize liability associated with the practice of laboratory assisting (risk management, patient refusal to comply)** [PCT3.1](#)

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**3.2 Comply with the Patients' Bill of Rights according to AMA (American Medical Association) and AHA (American Hospital Association)** [PCT3.2](#)

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**3.3 Protect patient confidentiality according to HIPPA guidelines** [PCT3.3](#)

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**3.4 Function within the laboratory assistant's scope of practice (duties and responsibilities)** [PCT3.4](#)

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**PERFORM THE  
PHLEBOTOMY  
PROCEDURE** [PCT4.0](#)

**4.1 Explain the legal scope of practice and laws and regulations regarding phlebotomy and point-of-care testing** [PCT4.1](#)

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**4.2 Use terms, abbreviations, and codes commonly used in laboratory testing** [PCT4.2](#)

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**4.3 Read physician orders/laboratory requisitions to determine specimen requirements** [PCT4.3](#)

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**4.4 Order tests according to physician's orders, including inside and outside laboratories** [PCT4.4](#)

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**4.5 Follow written facility testing procedures and protocol** [PCT4.5](#)

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- 4.6** Use the proper method (two proofs of identify) to ensure patient identification [PCT4.6](#)
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- 4.7** Provide a comfortable, safe environment and explain lab procedures to the patient, using an interpreter if needed [PCT4.7](#)
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- 4.8** Use phlebotomy equipment according to manufacturer guidelines [PCT4.8](#)
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- 4.9** Select the appropriate tube following test requirement guidelines [PCT4.9](#)
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- 4.10** Describe basic functions of the cardiovascular system [PCT4.10](#)
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- 4.11** Distinguish characteristics of arterial, venous, and capillary blood [PCT4.11](#)
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- 4.12** Demonstrate an understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the hand and arm [PCT4.12](#)
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- 4.13** Perform the phlebotomist collection procedures (venous blood, capillary blood, blood cultures) [PCT4013](#)
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**PERFORM SPECIMEN  
COLLECTION AND  
PROCESSING  
PROCEDURES** [PCT5.0](#)

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- 5.1** Demonstrate the proper method of patient identification [PCT5.1](#)
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- 5.2** Instruct the patient in the proper procedure for collecting semen, urine, feces, and other body fluids [PCT5.2](#)
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- 5.3** Describe procedures for testing urine, blood, occult blood, and capillary glucose [PCT5.3](#)
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- 5.4** Use terms, abbreviations, and codes commonly used in the laboratory regarding specimen collection and processing (e.g., capillary vs. venous vs. arterial) [PCT5.4](#)
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- 5.5** Use reference values for selected specimen (point-of-care testing) [PCT5.5](#)
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- 5.6** Read physician orders/laboratory requisitions to determine specimen requirements [PCT5.6](#)
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- 5.7** Follow written facility testing procedures [PCT5.7](#)
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- 5.8** Choose equipment and supplies for selected specimens [PCT5.8](#)
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- 5.9** Use blood bank bands and identification according to facilities policies [PCT5.9](#)
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- 5.10** Label, transport, and store selected specimens according to established protocol [PCT5.10](#)
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- 5.11** Determine specimen acceptability (e.g., preparation; type of specimen; collection, handling, and storage of specimen; and presence of interfering substances) [PCT5.11](#)
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**5.12** Prepare for a test run (sample and reagent preparation, use of standards and controls, instrument calibration, performance and maintenance checks, malfunction identification and troubleshooting) **PCT5.12**

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**5.13** Handle sterile and non-sterile items according to standards and procedures **PCT5.13**

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**5.14** Perform specimen collection procedures (e.g., throat cultures and RSV swabs) **PCT5.14**

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**5.15** Perform processing and pre-analytic preparation of specimens (centrifuge, separate, aliquot, and label) **PCT5.15**

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**5.16** Store specimens (time, temperature, light, packaging, and transport off-site) **PCT5.16**

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**5.17** Follow chain-of-custody procedure (drug screen testing, blood alcohol testing) **PCT5.17**

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**5.18** Report results according to established protocol and using appropriate documentation procedures **PCT5.18**

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**5.19** Identify and report specimens that are STAT or ASAP according to established protocol **PCT5.19**

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**5.20** Define quality control terms (e.g., trends and shifts, means and modes, and documentation and corrective action) **PCT5.20**

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**DEMONSTRATE  
LABORATORY  
DOCUMENTATION,  
QUALITY CONTROL, AND  
QUALITY  
ASSURANCE** **PCT6.0**

**6.1** Explain the quality control process on manual testing and instrumentation **PCT6.1**

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**6.2** Explain the quality control check on refrigerators, centrifuge, rotators, and incubators **PCT6.2**

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**6.3** Apply quality improvement procedures to laboratory activities as defined by the facility, department, and profession **PCT6.3**

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**6.4** Perform quality assessment and improvement activities **PCT6.4**

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**6.5** Perform preventive maintenance on instruments and equipment (e.g, recognize equipment malfunctions and notify appropriate authority) **PCT6.5**

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**6.6** Describe calibrating and monitoring instruments **PCT6.6**

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**6.7** Recognize procedural and technical problems and take corrective action according to predetermined criteria **PCT6.7**

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**PERFORM URINALYSIS  
TESTING** **PCT7.0**

**7.1** Demonstrate knowledge of basic physiology of urinary system **PCT7.1**

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**7.2** Prepare for testing (perform instrument setup, calibration, and maintenance; evaluate reagent/dipstick acceptability; collect, handle, and store specimen; perform quality control procedures) **PCT7.2**

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**7.3** Perform macroscopic examination of urine [physical and chemical tests, identify normal/abnormal values, recognize interfering substances, define method limitation(s)] **PCT7.3**

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**7.4** Perform confirmatory tests (e.g., clinitest, ictocheck, acetest, ASSA) **PCT7.4**

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**APPLY PRINCIPLES OF IMMUNOLOGY/POINT OF CARE** **PCT8.0**

**8.1** Determine specimen acceptability (patient preparation, type of specimen, collection, handling and storage, presence of interfering substances) **PCT8.1**

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**8.2** Prepare for test run (prepare sample and reagent, use standards and controls, calibrate instrument or apparatus, perform maintenance checks, identify/troubleshoot malfunctions) **PCT8.2**

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**8.3** Perform immunological assays **PCT8.3**

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**8.4** Interpret and report results (identify questionable/contradictory results and provide to appropriate authority) **PCT8.4**

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**8.5** Perform and evaluate quality control procedures related to each task according to manufacturer guidelines and perform corrective action if needed **PCT8.5**

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**APPLY PRINCIPLES OF HEMATOLOGY** **PCT9.0**

**9.1** Determine specimen acceptability (collect, handle, and store specimen; evaluate type and age of specimen and additive; label properly; check for clots) **PCT9.1**

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**9.2** Prepare specimen for analysis (prepare sample and reagents, use standards and controls, perform performance and maintenance checks, identify and troubleshoot malfunctions) **PCT9.2**

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**9.3** Prepare acceptable blood films [peripheral (size/width thickness, feather edge, straight, and free of streaks) homogeneity, and labeling] **PCT9.3**

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**9.4** Stain blood films (e.g., Wright's stain, iron and controls, and retic) **PCT9.4**

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**9.5** Perform erythrocyte sedimentation rates (e.g., Wintrobe, Westergren, or their modifications) **PCT9.5**

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**APPLY PRINCIPLES OF COAGULATION AND HEMOSTASIS** **PCT10.0**

**10.1** Determine specimen acceptability (collection techniques; transport conditions; time, temperature, handling, and storage; additive present—blood-to-anticoagulant ration; check for clots or hemolysis) **PCT10.1**

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**10.2** Prepare specimen for analysis (prepare centrifuge, maintain specimen acceptability relative to time and temperature) **PCT10.2**

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    | <b>10.3 Prepare for test run (prepare sample and reagent, use standards and controls)</b> <small>PCT10.3</small>                                                                              |
|                                                                                    | <b>10.4 Perform bleeding time (platelet count, limitations of procedure)</b> <small>PCT10.4</small>                                                                                           |
| <b>APPLY PRINCIPLES OF MICROBIOLOGY</b> <small>PCT11.0</small>                     | <b>11.1 Determine specimen acceptability (patient preparation, type of specimen, collection, handling and storage of specimen, presence of interfering substances)</b> <small>PCT11.1</small> |
|                                                                                    | <b>11.2 Prepare smears and stains (sample and reagent/stain preparation)</b> <small>PCT11.2</small>                                                                                           |
|                                                                                    | <b>11.3 Inoculate media (sample and media preparation)</b> <small>PCT11.3</small>                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                    | <b>11.4 Incubate media (temperature requirements, prepare incubator, maintenance checks)</b> <small>PCT11.4</small>                                                                           |
|                                                                                    | <b>11.5 Report results to appropriate authority</b> <small>PCT11.5</small>                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                    | <b>11.6 Perform and evaluate quality control procedures related to each task and document corrective action</b> <small>PCT11.6</small>                                                        |
| <b>REPORT TEST RESULTS</b> <small>PCT12.0</small>                                  | <b>12.1 Identify and analyze reference values</b> <small>PCT12.1</small>                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                    | <b>12.2 Identify, analyze, and respond to critical values</b> <small>PCT12.2</small>                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                    | <b>12.3 Match laboratory results with patient information</b> <small>PCT12.3</small>                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                    | <b>12.4 Identify abnormal and questionable/contradictory results and refer them to the appropriate authority</b> <small>PCT12.4</small>                                                       |
|                                                                                    | <b>12.5 Demonstrate understanding or a variety to laboratory documents for reporting test results both manually and electronically</b> <small>PCT12.5</small>                                 |
|                                                                                    | <b>12.6 Notify specified laboratory personnel when having difficulty with a procedure</b> <small>PCT12.6</small>                                                                              |
|                                                                                    | <b>12.7 Follow established procedure for correcting and/or amending manual or electronic reports</b> <small>PCT12.7</small>                                                                   |
| <b>MAINTAIN LABORATORY SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT INVENTORY</b> <small>PCT13.0</small> | <b>13.1 Check for adequate inventory of laboratory supplies and equipment</b> <small>PCT13.1</small>                                                                                          |
|                                                                                    | <b>13.2 Use protocol for ordering laboratory supplies and equipment</b> <small>PCT13.2</small>                                                                                                |
|                                                                                    | <b>13.4 Describe storage of laboratory supplies and equipment</b> <small>PCT13.4</small>                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                    | <b>13.3 Receive and catalog incoming supplies</b> <small>PCT13.3</small>                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                    | <b>13.5 Prepare, label, and store working reagents</b> <small>PCT13.5</small>                                                                                                                 |

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**13.6 Use information management systems to record and retrieve laboratory data from work produced on site and reference laboratories** PCT13.6