

Objective Questions #4  
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- Describe how to properly remove serum from a clot tube. **Answer:** After the specimen has been centrifuged for the appropriate amount of time, you can then extract the serum. First you gently pry open the rubber stopper of the tube. Using a sterilized pipette, push the bubble of the pipette before going into the tube. Once submerged in the serum, release the bubble of the pipette and the serum should fill the pipette. Once the pipette is full, place it into the serum holder tube. Repeat this step as many times is needed to extract all of the serum out.
- Why should you wipe away the first drop of blood when performing a capillary puncture? **Answer:** You wipe away the first drop of blood to prevent skewing the test results. This is because the first drop of blood usually contains tissue fluid that could affect the results. Also, because the first drop also has more platelets and thus causing the puncture site to close up faster than desired.
- Capillary punctures are also done for point-of-care testing. Give an example of two POC tests that use capillary samples. **Answer:** Glucose- which monitors a patient's sugar to blood ratio. Cholesterol- which monitors how much cholesterol(fat) is in your blood.
- Infant heel stick samples are used for newborn screening tests known as a(n). **Answer:** NBS- Newborn Screening. I couldn't find anything more specific than that in the book? I know these tests are to screen for over 50 different types of diseases/conditions/disorders.
- List the four most common problems that occur with a venipuncture. **Answer:** Pain, hematoma, hemolysis, and nerve damage.
- Why is blind probing NOT recommended as a phlebotomy technique. **Answer:** It's pretty obvious. If you don't know where you're going, why are you going there? It can cause unnecessary damage and pain to the patient. It benefits you in no way shape or form.
- Why are WBC counts performed on a patient sample. **Answer:** Screen for diseases/conditions. As well as any inflammation that may be present in the body, that the patient might not yet be aware of.
- Describe a differential and why it is performed on patient samples. **Answer:** A differential is observing the differences of one disease to another one. Plenty of diseases share a lot of the

same symptoms. They are performed on samples because they can sometimes make or break a symptom a patient is having, that leads to the correct diagnosis.

- What is a normal platelet count for a healthy person? **Answer:** The desired range for an adult person is between 150,000 to 400,000 platelets per microliter.
- Why is blood typing not a CLIA-waived test? **Answer:** This is not a CLIA-waived test because of two reasons. One, it's considered invasive and slightly challenging; there is a lot of room for error. Two, because there's a lot of room for error, it's not just a poke of the finger, if a mistake is made a person's life is at risk. Say that person was donating blood, they think they have a certain type, but made a mistake and actually have another type, that could literally kill somebody.
- What is the most frequently tested chemical analyte in the blood? **Answer:** Serum.
- What factors affect a person's cholesterol level? **Answer:** Smoking, diet, exercise, and age mostly.
- What two liver enzymes are indicators of liver damage? **Answer:** AST and ALT.
- What two hormones produced by the thyroid gland affect body metabolism? **Answer:** T3 and T4.
- Describe a chemistry panel. **Answer:** They are an in depth look into a person's general health. They evaluate a person's fluids, organ function, and excrement functions. I think excrement is the right word?