



The American Board of Pathology

Practice Area Topics

ABPath CertLink® covers over 30 identified Practice Areas of Pathology. A percentage of questions from some Practice Areas are automatically assigned to a diplomate based on their primary and/or subspecialty certifications. Other Practice Areas are elective, allowing a diplomate to design their own practice-relevant assessment syllabus. To assist in the selection of elective Practice Areas, the topics covered within each are included in the lists below.

Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine (BBTM)

- BBTM NOS, Other
- Transfusion Medicine Clinical Practice
- Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia
- Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria
- Bleeding from Congenital and Acquired Coagulation Defects and Antithrombotic Therapy
- Cell and Tissue Therapy
- HLA Antigens and Alleles
- Tissue Banking and Engineering
- Gene Therapy in Transfusion Medicine
- RBCs and RBC Components
- RBC Production, Metabolism and Preservation
- RBC Immunology and Compatibility Testing
- Blood Group Systems
- Anemia and Red Blood Cell Transfusion
- Apheresis
- Therapeutic Plasma Exchange
- Therapeutic Hemapheresis and Phlebotomy
- Hazards of Transfusion: Adverse Events
- Plasma Components and Derivatives
- Blood Donors and Blood Collection
- Quality, Legal and Regulatory Issues
- Surgery, Trauma, Transplant Patients
- Biovigilance & Transfusion-Related Immunomodulation
- Platelets
- Neutrophils
- Obstetric and Pediatric Patients
- Transplantation (including HPC)

Breast (BR)

- Breast NOS, Other
- Breast and Nipple Cytology
- Benign Breast Disease and Inflammatory
- Papillary Lesions
- Ductal and Lobular Carcinoma in Situ
- Malignant Breast Disease
- Mixed Epithelial and Stromal Tumors

Cardiovascular (CV)

- Cardiovascular NOS, Other
- Ischemic and Hypertensive Heart Disease
- Congenital Heart Disease
- Cardiomyopathies
- Cardiac Tumors
- Cardiac Valvular Lesions

- Pericardial Diseases

- Diseases of Blood Vessels

Chemical Pathology (CH)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chem Path, NOS, Other • Analytical Techniques • Evaluation of Organ Function • Muscle and Cardiac • Liver • GI and Pancreas • Bone • Tumor Markers • Carbohydrates, Lipids, Proteins • Electrolytes and Blood Gases | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapeutic Drugs and Toxicology • Toxic Metals • Kidney • Disorders of Water, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Metabolism • Endocrine • Inborn Errors of Metabolism • Hematopoietic and Immunologic Disorders • Lab Management |
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Clinical Informatics (CI)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informatics NOS, Other • Nature of Information • Data Architectures and Management (databases) • Coding and Tracking (barcode, SNOMED, etc.) • Electronic Information Systems • Qualities of Information Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Regulations (HIPAA) • Computer Basics (hardware, software) • Digital Imaging • Project Management • Lab Policies, Procedures, and Directives (“Document Control”) • Inferences from Information |
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Clinical Pathology, General (CPG)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Pathology NOS, Other • Transfusion Medicine Clinical Practice • RBCs and RBC Components • Apheresis • Hazards of Transfusion: Adverse Events • Plasma Components and Derivatives • Blood Donors and Blood Collection • Platelets • Transplantation (including HPC) • Hematology Testing & Instrumentation • RBC Disorders • WBC Disorders, Non-neoplastic • Infectious Disorders • Hemepath NOS, Other • H&T, Coag NOS, Other • Myeloid Neoplasms • Lymphoid Neoplasms • Histiocytic/Dendritic Cell Neoplasms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informatics • Coding and Tracking (barcode, SNOMED, etc.) • Electronic Information Systems • Digital Imaging • Statistics, Decision Models, Big Data • Quality Management • Analytic Risks and Mitigation • Patient Safety • Employee and Environmental Safety; OSHA • Human Resources • Finance, NOS • Laws and Regulations • CLIA • Proficiency Testing • Professionalism and Ethics • Bacteria |
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- Microbiology Management
- Bacteria
- Mycobacteria, Nocardia, Other Aerobic Actinomycetes
- Fungi NOS, Other
- Viruses & Prions NOS, Other
- Parasites, NOS, Other
- Microbiology Methods
- MGP NOS, Other
- Molecular Genetic Principles
- Molecular Techniques, Methods, Assays
- Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Issues
- MGP Inherited Diseases
- MGP Solid Tumors
- MGP Hematopathology
- Pharmacogenetics and Genomics
- MGP Infectious Disease

Cytopathology – nonGYN (CYN)

- Cyto-nonGYN NOS, Other
- Body Fluids
- CNS and Eye
- Urinary Tract and Kidney Cytology
- Lung, Respiratory
- GI Cytology
- Liver, Biliary
- Pancreas
- Head & Neck; Salivary Gland FNA
- Thyroid and Parathyroid
- Lymph Node FNA
- Head and Neck, Oral
- Breast and Nipple Cytology
- Mediastinum and Retroperitoneum
- Kidneys and Adrenal
- Soft Tissue, Skin, Bone, Superficial Lumps Cytology
- Cyto Lab Admin, Mgmt, Techniques and Procedures

Cytopathology – GYN (CYG)

- Cyto-GYN NOS, Other
- Screening, Indications, Techniques, Adequacy
- Normal, NILM
- Infections
- Reactive/Reparative
- HPV
- Atypical Squamous Cells
- SIL and Squamous Cell Carcinoma
- Atypical Glandular Cells; Adenocarcinoma: Endometrial and Endocervical
- Management and Reporting Guidelines
- Lower Anogenital Tract (anal, vulvar)
- Female Genital (endometrium, upper tract)

Dermatopathology (DP)

- Dermatopathology NOS, Other
- Inflammatory Reaction Patterns
- The Epidermis
- The Dermis
- Normal Skin
- Artifacts
- Diseases of Cutaneous Appendages
- Cysts, Sinuses, and Pits
- Panniculitis
- Metabolic and Storage Diseases
- Infections and Infestations
- Benign Tumors
- Malignant Tumors
- Laboratory Techniques

Endocrine (ENDO)

- Endocrine NOS, Other
- Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia
- Pituitary, Sella, Pineal
- Thyroid
- Non-neoplastic
- Neoplastic
- Parathyroid
- Reproductive; Ovary, Testis
- Adrenal
- Pancreas
- Paraganglioma

Female Reproductive (FEM)

- Female Reproductive NOS, Other
- Cyto-GYN NOS, Other
- Gestational Trophoblastic Disease
- Placenta
- Vulva
- Vagina
- Cervix
- Uterine Corpus
- Ovaries
- Fallopian Tube and Broad Ligament
- Peritoneum

Forensic Pathology (FP)

- Forensic Pathology NOS, Other
- Natural Deaths
- Pediatric Deaths
- Cardiovascular System
- Chronic Alcoholism
- Central Nervous System
- Respiratory System
- Hepatic, GI, Pancreatic System
- Other Organ Systems
- Infectious Disease/Microbiology
- Trauma, Mechanical & Physical Injury
- Asphyxia
- Firearms; Ballistics
- Sharp Injuries (Cutting & Stabbing)
- Fire/Thermal Deaths
- Chemical Injury: Toxicology and Postmortem Chemistry
- Water-Related Deaths
- All other causes of death

GI - incl. liver, pancreas, biliary (GI)

- GI NOS, Other
- GI Cytology
- Esophagus
- Stomach
- Small Intestine
- Appendix
- Colorectal
- Anal Canal
- Liver, NOS
- Liver Metabolic Diseases
- Viral Hepatitis (Hepatitis A, B, C)
- Alcoholic Liver Disease
- Infectious Diseases
- Liver Neoplasms
- Pancreas
- Pancreas Non-neoplastic
- Pancreas Neoplastic
- Gallbladder, Extrahepatic Biliary Tree

Head & Neck/Oral (HN)

- Head and Neck NOS, Other
- Head & Neck; Salivary Gland FNA
- Jaws and Oral Cavity, NOS
- Oral cavity, Non-neoplastic
- Oral cavity, Neoplastic
- Salivary Glands; Nonneoplastic
- Salivary Glands; Neoplastic
- Nose, Paranasal Sinuses, and Nasopharynx
- Larynx; Non-neoplastic
- Larynx; Neoplastic
- Ear and Temporal Bone
- Eye and Ocular Adnexa

Hematology – Blood, BM (HE)

- Hematology NOS, Other
- Hematology Testing & Instrumentation
- Hemoglobinopathies
- Cell Morphology
- Flow Cytometry
- Molecular and Cytogenetic Testing
- Normal Hematopoiesis
- RBC Disorders
- WBC Disorders, Non-neoplastic
- Infectious Disorders
- Fluid Specimens
- H&T, Coag NOS, Other
- Myeloid Neoplasms

- Lymphoid Neoplasms
- Admin & Lab Management

Hematopathology – LN, Spleen (HP)

- Hemepath NOS, Other
- Lymph Node, Non-neoplastic
- Spleen
- Thymus
- B & T-lymphoblastic Leukemia/Lymphoma
- Mature B-cell Neoplasms
- Mature T- and NK-cell Neoplasms
- Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Plasma Cell Neoplasms, Paraprotein Disorders, Amyloidosis
- Histiocytic/Dendritic Cell Neoplasms
- Metastatic Neoplasms
- Lymph Node FNA

Hemostasis & Thrombosis/Coagulation (COAG)

- H&T, Coag NOS, Other
- Methods, Instrumentation
- Coagulation and Fibrinolysis Testing
- Platelet Testing
- Thrombophilia Testing
- Coagulation and Fibrinolytic Disorders
- Platelet Disorders and von Willebrand Disease
- Thrombophilic Disorders
- Antiplatelet and Anticoagulant Drugs and Monitoring

Infectious Diseases (ID)

- Infectious Diseases NOS, Other
- Safety (Bio Safety); Risk Management
- Compliance and Regulations
- Bacteria
- Stains and Direct Examination
- Aerobic Bacteria
- Anaerobic Bacteria
- Mycoplasmas and Ureaplasma
- Spirochetes
- Intracellular Bacteria
- Mycobacteria
- Nocardia and Other Aerobic Actinomycetes
- Fungi NOS, Other
- Fungi-Stains and Direct Examination
- Yeasts and Yeast-Like Fungi
- Hyaline Septate Molds
- Dimorphic Fungi
- Zygomycetes
- Dematiaceous Fungi
- Microsporidia
- Viruses & Prions NOS, Other
- Herpesviridae (HSV, VZV, EBV, CMV, HHV6, 7, and 8)
- Hepadnaviridae (HBV and HDV)
- Papillomaviruses
- Retroviruses (HIV, HTLV)
- Prions
- Parasites, NOS, Other
- Protozoa
- Nematodes (Round Worms)
- Trematodes (Flukes)
- Cestodes (Tapeworms)
- Insects, Arthropods, and Arachnids
- Microbiology Methods
- Molecular Methods

Lab Management/Medical Director/Patient Safety (LM MD)

- Lab Management NOS, Other
- Informatics
- Coding and Tracking (e.g., SNOMED, barcodes, etc.)
- Electronic Information Systems, LIS, EMR
- Statistics, Decision Models, Big Data
- Quality Management
- Quality
- Safety
- Patient Safety
- Employee and Environmental Safety; OSHA
- Risk Monitoring and Mitigation
- Human Resources
- Employees

- Customers
- Suppliers and Supplies
- Finance, NOS
- Management of Expenses, Revenue, Capital
- Major Payors
- Business Strategy
- Laws and Regulations
- CLIA
- CAP
- Proficiency Testing
- Joint Commission
- Physician Relations (laws ie Stark and anti-kickback)
- Regulation of Information and Information Mgmt (HIPPA)
- Professionalism and Ethics

Male Genital (MG)

- Male Genital NOS, Other
- Prostate Nonneoplastic & Inflammatory Disorders
- Adenocarcinoma of Prostate, Acinar (usual) Type; PIN
- Gleason Grading
- Mimickers of Prostate Cancer
- Therapy Effects
- Prostate Carcinoma Variants
- Seminal Vesicles
- Testis NOS, Other
- Testicular and Paratesticular Tumors
- Germ Cell Tumors
- Sex Cord-Stromal Tumors
- Hematopoietic Tumors
- Penis NOS, Other
- Penis Neoplasms

Medical Microbiology (MMB)

- Med Micro NOS, Other
- Management and Informatics
- Quality Control
- Safety (Bio Safety), Risk Management
- Supplies, Reagents, Stains
- Compliance and Regulations
- Collection, Handling, & Processing of Specimens
- Media
- Stains and Direct Examination
- Identification Methods, Instrumentation
- Antibacterial, Antifungal, Antimycobacterial Agents
- Bacterial, Fungal, Mycobacterial Susceptibility Testing
- Mechanisms of Resistance
- Aerobic Bacteria
- Gram-Positive Aerobic Bacteria
- Gram-Negative Aerobic Bacteria
- Anaerobic Bacteria
- Mycoplasmas and Ureaplasma
- Spirochetes
- Intracellular Bacteria
- Mycobacteria, Nocardia, Other Aerobic Actinomycetes
- Fungi NOS, Other
- Fungi Stains and Direct Examination
- Yeasts and Yeast-Like Fungi
- Hyaline Septate Molds
- Dimorphic Fungi
- Zygomycetes
- Dematiaceous Fungi
- Microsporidia
- Virus Identification, Resistance, Susceptibility, Antiviral Agents
- Viruses, NOS, Other
- Herpesviridae (HSV, VZV, EBV, CMV, HHV6, 7, and 8)
- Hepadnaviridae (HBV and HDV)
- Prions
- Parasites NOS, Other
- Protozoa
- Nematodes (Round Worms)
- Trematodes (Flukes)
- Cestodes (Tapeworms)
- Insects, Arthropods, and Arachnids
- Molecular Methods

Medical Renal (MR)

- Medical Renal NOS
- Developmental/Congenital Lesions
- Nephritic Syndrome
- Nephrotic Syndrome

- Monoclonal Gammopathy Associated Renal Disease
- Tubulointerstitial Disease
- Vascular Diseases
- Renal Transplantation

Molecular Genetic Pathology – AP emphasis (MGP AP)

- MGP NOS, Other
- Normal Structure and Function
- Mechanisms of Alteration/Types of Defect
- Inherited and Somatic Defects
- Molecular Techniques, Methods, Assays
- Assay Performance, Validation, QC, QA, PT
- Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Issues
- MGP Inherited Diseases
- Inherited Cancer Syndromes
- MGP Solid Tumors
- MGP Hematopathology
- Pharmacogenetics and Genomics
- MGP Infectious Disease
- Identity Testing
- Histocompatibility
- Informatics

Molecular Genetic Pathology – CP emphasis (MGP CP)

- MGP NOS, Other
- Normal Structure and Function
- Mechanisms of Alteration/Types of Defect
- Inherited and Somatic Defects
- Molecular Techniques, Methods, Assays
- Assay Performance, Validation, QC, QA, PT
- Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Issues
- Indications for Testing
- MGP Inherited Diseases
- Inherited Cancer Syndromes
- MGP Hematopathology
- Pharmacogenetics and Genomics
- MGP Infectious Disease
- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Fungi/Yeast and Parasites
- Prion Disorders
- Identity Testing
- Histocompatibility
- Informatics

Neuropathology - incl. Neuromuscular (NP)

- Neuropathology NOS, Other
- Neuroanatomy
- Pathologic Responses in Neurons and Axons; Inclusions
- Pathologic Reactions of Astrocytes, Oligodendrocytes, Ependymal Cells, Microglia
- Molecular Techniques, Staining, Special Microscopy
- Developmental Neuropathology
- Fetal and Neonatal Hypoxic-ischemic Lesions
- Perinatal Hemorrhages
- Malformations
- Neuronal Migration Defects
- Dysgenetic Syndromes
- Hydrocephalus
- Metabolic/Environmental/Iatrogenic
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- Epilepsy
- Vascular Disorders
- Trauma
- Infectious/Inflammatory Disease
- Demyelinating Diseases
- Complications of Systemic Disorders
- Aging and Neurodegenerative Diseases
- Alzheimer Disease, NOS
- Tauopathies
- Neoplasms NOS, Other
- Astrocytomas
- Oligodendroglial Tumors
- Ependymal and Choroid Plexus Tumors
- Neuronal and Mixed Neuronal-glial Tumors
- Pineal Region Tumors
- Embryonal Tumors

- Cranial and Paraspinal Nerve Tumors
- Tumors of the Meninges/Meningothelial Cells
- Mesenchymal (Nonmeningothelial) Tumors
- Lymphoma and Hematopoietic tumors
- Sellar Region Tumors
- Germ Cell Tumors
- Cysts
- Metastatic Tumors
- Familial Tumor Predisposition Syndromes
- Skeletal Muscle
- Inflammatory Myopathies
- Metabolic Diseases
- Muscular Dystrophies
- Congenital Myopathies
- Peripheral Nerve
- Inflammatory Neuropathies
- Ophthalmic Pathology

Pediatric Pathology (PP)

- Pediatric Path NOS, Other
- Perinatal; Placental-maternal-fetal Relationships
- Fetal, Neonatal Pathology; Fetal Demise
- Genetic, Metabolic, Inherited Disorders
- Cardiovascular System
- Respiratory System and Mediastinum
- Central Nervous System; Eye and Ear
- Skin
- Alimentary Tract
- Hepatobiliary System and Pancreas
- Kidney and Urinary System
- Endocrine System, Excluding Ovary and Testis
- Hematopoietic System (e.g., BM, LNs, Thymus, Spleen)
- Breast
- Female Reproductive System
- Male Reproductive System
- Soft Tissue, Nerve, Muscle, and Bone
- Management and Informatics
- Forensic Pathology

Placenta (PLA)

- Placenta NOS, Other
- Normal Anatomy and Histology
- Membrane Pathology
- Umbilical Cord Pathology
- Fetal Vessel Pathology
- Villous Pathology
- Maternal Intervillous Space Pathology
- Basal Plate Pathology
- Placental Tumors
- Implantation Pathology
- Multifetal Pregnancy
- Gestational Trophoblastic Diseases
- Maternal Disorders Affecting Pregnancy
- Maternal Complications of Pregnancy
- Fetal Loss/IUFD

Pulmonary; Mediastinum (PUL)

- Pulmonary, Mediastinum NOS, Other
- Cytology
- Normal Anatomy
- Non-neoplastic
- Neoplastic Benign
- Neoplastic Malignant
- Metastatic
- Pleura
- Mesothelioma
- Mediastinum
- Thymus
- Germ Cell Tumors
- Lymphoma
- Other Mediastinum

Soft Tissue & Bone (ST)

- Soft Tissue & Bone NOS, Other
- Soft Tissue, Skin, Bone, Superficial Lumps Cytology
- Medical Neuromuscular Diseases
- Fibrous/Myofibroblastic Tumors
- Adipose Tumors

- Smooth Muscle Tumors
- Skeletal Muscle Tumors
- Vascular Tumors
- Perivascular Tumors
- Cartilaginous Soft Tissue Tumors
- Benign Soft Tissue Tumors of Uncertain Type
- Malignant Soft Tissue Tumors of Uncertain Type
- Bone and Joint, NOS, Other
- Non-neoplastic Bone
- Neoplastic Bone
- Osteogenic Tumors
- Chondroid Tumors
- Joints

Transplant Pathology (TRANS)

- Transplant Path NOS, Other
- Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells
- HLA Matching
- Tissue Banks
- Cardiac Transplantation
- Cardiac Allograft Rejection
- Liver Transplantation
- Small Intestine Transplantation
- GVHD
- Pancreas
- Lung Transplantation
- Renal Transplantation
- Skin, Face Transplantation

Urinary Tract, Kidney (UT)

- UT, Kidney NOS, Other
- Urinary Tract and Kidney Cytology
- Developmental/Congenital Lesions
- Vascular Lesions
- Adult Renal Tumors
- Pediatric Renal Tumors
- Non-neoplastic
- Neoplastic