



Hematology

Certification Examination Blueprint

What Does the Examination Cover?

The exam is designed to evaluate the extent of the candidate's knowledge and clinical judgment in the areas in which a hematologist should demonstrate a high level of competence. It will assess expertise in the broad domain of hematology and the diagnosis and treatment of both common and rare conditions that have important consequences for patients.

Exam content is consistent with a pre-established blueprint, or table of specifications. The blueprint is developed by the Subspecialty Board on Hematology and is reviewed and revised annually to ensure that it is current. In addition, practicing hematologists, hematology trainees, and training program directors are surveyed periodically to provide feedback on the blueprinting process. The blueprint is used as a guide in developing the exam.

The majority of questions (over 75 percent) are based on patient presentations occurring in settings that reflect current medical practice. Questions requiring simple recall of medical facts are in the minority; the majority of questions require integration of information from several sources, prioritization of alternatives, or utilization of clinical judgment in reaching a correct conclusion. Some questions require interpretation of pictorial material, such as physical findings, radiographic studies, and histopathologic and other laboratory specimens.

Topics covered may include the following:

- Normal red cell and white cell physiology and metabolism and normal hemostasis
- Treatment regimens and methods
- Genetic disorders
- Immunohematology
- Hematologic manifestations of disorders that are not primarily hematologic, such as infectious diseases and solid tumors
- General internal medicine as encountered in the practice of hematology, such as the common nonhematopoietic neoplasms

The content areas covered and their relative proportions on the exam are as follows:

Medical Content Category	Relative Percentage
Hematopoietic System	22.5%
Coagulation	25%
Hematologic Neoplastic Disorders	33%
Transfusion Medicine	9.5%
Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation	10%
Total	100%

Content Outline of the Certification Examination

This content outline describes a *typical* Hematology Certification Examination; actual content on a specific examination may vary. Each medical content category from the examination blueprint is listed in boldface below, along with the target blueprint percentage and total number of questions in the category. Within each category, the approximate distribution of questions in specified areas is also listed.

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Hematopoietic System (22.5%)	44–46 as follows:
Normal hematopoiesis	0–2
Red blood cell disorders	36–38
White blood cell disorders	2–4
Bone marrow failure states	3–5

Coagulation (25%)	49–51 as follows:
Platelet and megakaryocyte disorders	11–13
Hemostasis	19–21
Thrombosis	17–19

Hematologic Neoplastic Disorders (33%)	65–67 as follows:
Chronic myeloproliferative diseases	9–11
Acute myeloid leukemias	9–11
Myelodysplastic syndrome disorders	5–7
B-cell neoplasms	27–29
B-cell proliferations of uncertain malignant potential	1–3
T-cell and NK-cell neoplasms	0–2
Hodgkin lymphoma	4–6
Histocytic and dendritic cell neoplasms	0–2
Mastocytosis	0–2
Complications of hematologic malignancies	1–3

Transfusion Medicine (9.5%)	18–20 as follows:
Collection, evaluation, and preparation of blood products	0–2
Components of blood products	1–3
Clinical indications for use of specific blood products	5–7
Risks associated with administration of blood products	3–5
Assays typically performed in a blood bank	1–3
Apheresis	1–3
Red cell exchange transfusions	1–3

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (10%)	19–21 as follows:
Stem cell biology and engraftment	1–3
HSCT in the management of hematologic diseases	4–6
Conditioning regimens	1–3
Collecting and handling cells for transplantation	1–3
Prophylaxis and supportive care	3–5
Complications after HSCT	4–6