



Transplant Hepatology 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 consultant in transplant hepatology should demonstrate a high level of competence. Expertise in the broad domain of transplant hepatology will be assessed.

Exam content is consistent with a pre-established blueprint, or table of specifications. The blueprint is developed by the Subspecialty Board on Transplant Hepatology and is reviewed and revised on a regular basis to ensure that it is current. In addition, practicing transplant hepatologists, transplant hepatology 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, and/or utilization of clinical judgment in reaching a correct conclusion. Some questions require interpretation of pictorial material, such as imaging studies (including ultrasonograms, computed tomograms, magnetic resonance images, and cholangiograms), photographs of physical findings, and photomicrographs of biopsy specimens.

Topics covered may include the following:

- Basic and clinical science, anatomy, and physiology
- Pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and complications of drugs
- Indications for and interpretation of interventional radiology in the management of patients who are being evaluated for or have undergone liver transplantation

The exam is developed jointly by the ABIM and the American Board of Pediatrics. All candidates will see 180 common questions. ABIM candidates will see 60 additional questions specific to adult content areas; American Board of Pediatrics candidates will see 60 additional questions specific to Pediatric content areas.

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

Medical Content Category	Relative Percentage
Pretransplant	50%
Perioperative	20%
Posttransplant	20%
Transplant Immunology	5%
Miscellaneous	5%
Total	100%

Content Outline of the Certification Examination

This content outline describes a *typical* Transplant Hepatology 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 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
Pretransplant (50%)	110-130 as follows:
Biliary atresia (Pediatrics)	3-5
Inherited cholestatic syndromes	1-4
Metabolic diseases	5-10
Autoimmune disorders	4-8
Viral hepatitis	19-23
Budd Chiari	1-3
Ascites	2-4
Growth failure (Pediatrics)	1-3
Portal hypertension and gastric varices	2-4
Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis	1-3
Hepatorenal syndrome	2-4
Encephalopathy	2-4
Hepatopulmonary syndrome	1-3
Liver tumors	8-12
Selection for transplantation/evaluation	16-25
Fulminant (acute) liver failure	9-15

Perioperative (20%)	44-52 as follows:
Donor selection	2-5
Surgical options, complications specific to graft/donor type (including ABO)	3-6
Perioperative complications	30-39
Drug hepatotoxicity	1-4
Nutritional support	1-4

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Posttransplant (20%)	44-52 as follows:
Immune complications	10-15
Non-immune complications	18-22
Recurrence of disease	3-6
Post-transplant alloimmune hepatitis	1-3
Indications for retransplantation	1-3
Adherence to medical regimen	1-3
Quality of life	0-3

Transplant Immunology (5%)	10-14 as follows:
Basic immunology	4-7
Mechanism of action and PK of immunosuppressive medications	4-7
Short-term immune and non-immune toxicity of immunosuppressive medications	0-3

Miscellaneous (5%)	10-14 as follows:
Statistics	1-4
Ethics	1-4
Managed care/reimbursement issues	0-3