Practice Areas Topics

ABPath CertLink® covers the 31 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)**
- 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)
- 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

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

**Cardiovascular (CV)**
- Cardiomyopathies
- Cardiac Tumors
- Cardiac Valvular Lesions
- Cardiovascular NOS, Other
- Ischemic and Hypertensive Heart Disease
- Congenital Heart Disease
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Subcategories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pericardial Diseases</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diseases of Blood Vessels</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chemical Pathology (CH)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem Path, NOS, Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Analytical Techniques</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Evaluation of Organ Function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Muscle and Cardiac</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Liver</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- GI and Pancreas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tumor Markers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Carbohydrates, Lipids, Proteins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Electrolytes and Blood Gases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Informatics (CI)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Informatics NOS, Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Nature of Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Data Architectures and Management (databases)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Coding and Tracking (barcode, SNOMED, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Electronic Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Qualities of Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Pathology, General (CP)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Clinical Pathology NOS, Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Transfusion Medicine Clinical Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- RBCs and RBC Components</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Apheresis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hazards of Transfusion: Adverse Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Plasma Components and Derivatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Blood Donors and Blood Collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Platelets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Transplantation (including HPC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hematology Testing &amp; Instrumentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- RBC Disorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- WBC Disorders, Non-neoplastic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Infectious Disorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hemepath NOS, Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- H&amp;T, Coag NOS, Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Myeloid Neoplasms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lymphoid Neoplasms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Histiocytic/Dendritic Cell Neoplasms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Pathology, General (CP)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Informatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Coding and Tracking (barcode, SNOMED, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Electronic Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Digital Imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Statistics, Decision Models, Big Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Quality Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Analytic Risks and Mitigation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Patient Safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Employee and Environmental Safety; OSHA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Human Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Finance, NOS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Laws and Regulations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- CLIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Proficiency Testing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Professionalism and Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bacteria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- 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 (CY-nonGYN)**

- 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 (CY-GYN)**

- 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
- Cytogenetics
- 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

**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 Gammapathy Associated Renal Disease
- Tubulointerstitial Disease

**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

**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

**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

- Vascular Diseases
- Renal Transplantation

- MGP Inherited Diseases
- Inherited Cancer Syndromes
- MGP Solid Tumors
- MGP Hematopathology
- Pharmacogenetics and Genomics
- MGP Infectious Disease
- Identity Testing
- Histocompatibility
- Informatics

- Inherited Cancer Syndromes
- MGP Hematopathology
- Pharmacogenetics and Genomics
- MGP Infectious Disease
- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Fungi/Yeast and Parasites
- Prion Disorders
- Identity Testing
- Histocompatibility
- Informatics

- 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
- Oligodendrogial 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