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Introduction

This Candidate Handbook has been prepared by the Association for the Health Care Environment (AHE) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) for environmental services technician candidates working primarily in the Health Care industry. While the curriculum and training for the Certified Health Care Environmental Services Technician (CHEST) is specific to the Health Care industry, the credential may be appropriate for other industries and departments concerned with infection prevention and control, and for employees and representatives of

Declaration and Statement of Nondiscrimination

The CHEST National Certification Examination is a competency-based examination reflective of knowledge and expertise required to carry out the essential tasks of an environmental services technician.

AHE does not discriminate among candidates with respect to age, race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, marital status, and sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity.

Qualifications and Eligibility for taking the CHEST National Certification Examination

Certification examinations are offered to technicians who have successfully completed the CHEST training program, as documented by their CHEST Trainer (T-CHEST).

Requirements to qualify for CHEST training include:

1. Technicians must have a minimum of 6 months health care environmental services cleaning experience in direct patient care in an acute care

CHEST National Certification Examination

The CHEST exam consists of about 50 multiple choice questions, covering the seven environmental services domains mentioned above. Each domain has a set of associated tasks, which the course content and exam questions were built around. The number of questions per domain is equivalent to the percentage of content per each domain.

Generally, the CHEST Examination questions are categorized by the following cognitive levels:

- **Knowledge:** The ability to recall or recognize previously learned information
- **Comprehension:** The ability to demonstrate understanding of the facts
- **Application:** The ability to apply knowledge to real-world situations

The CHEST exam is structured so that approximately 38% of the questions pertain to Knowledge, 38% pertain to Comprehension, and 24% are Application-based.

Infection Prevention

- 20% of content/exam

Linen Handling

- 10% of content/exam

TASKS

- Distribute clean linen.
- Remove damaged or stained linen.
- Safely collect soiled linen.
- Clean, disinfect, and make the bed.
- Transport soiled linen to a designated collection point.

Floor Care

- 5% of content/exam

TASKS

- Dust mop the hard floor.
- Wet mop the floor using the appropriate solution, from the furthest point in the room towards the entrance/exit.
- Vacuum carpeted floors.

Testing Procedure

1. The examination is available online only and is administered by a T-CHEST at the trainer's health care facility.
2. Once training is completed, the T-CHEST notifies AHE that a candidate is ready to sit for the CHEST National Certification Exam.
3. The candidate and T-CHEST schedule the exam at a mutually agreeable time.
4. On the day of testing (en-US)/MCID 387 BDC BT10 T(On the da40s)J JETEMC 6

Failing the CHEST Examination

If a candidate does not pass a CHEST Examination, the score report is mailed out to him or her. If a candidate wishes to retake the exam, he or she can reschedule the exam with their facility's T-CHEST. There is no limit to the number of times a technician may retake the CHEST Exam. If a technician fails the exam three times, he or she is encouraged to repeat the CHEST training program.

Following the CHEST Examination

Examination Score Reports are issued by AHE. Scores are reported in written form only. Examinees will receive an online score immediately after submitting their exam. AHE will mail score reports, in a sealed package to the CHEST participant. Scores are not reported over the telephone, by electronic mail or by fax. The score report indicates a "Pass" or "Fail," which is determined by the raw score on the CHEST Examination. A raw score is the number of questions answered correctly. Responses to individual CHEST Examination questions will not be disclosed to a candidate.

CHEST Examination Score Confidentiality

Pass and Fail scores are considered confidential. It is the CHEST candidate's responsibility to abide by their employer's requirement to disclose their pass or fail status, with or without disclosure of their actual score. AHE will keep all scores confidential, unless specified by the CHEST candidate. If you do NOT wish to have this information shared, please opt out by contacting your facility's T-CHEST.

Renewal of CHEST Certification

CHEST certification is valid for three (3) years. Certification expires automatically at the end of the 3-year period and must be renewed prior to the expiration date. A renewal application will need to be submitted, as well as records documenting five (5) hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU) earned per year, for a total of 15 CEU hours during the certification period.

Certificants can also renew their CHEST credential by retaking the CHEST certification exam. To retake the exam, certificants must contact their T-CHEST and schedule the exam.

- Certificants are responsible for notifying AHE of changes to their contact information.
- Failure of a certificant to receive their renewal notice does not relieve the technician of his or her professional responsibility for renewing their National Certification prior to their expiration date.
- AHE is not responsible for financial or other damages occurring with respect to expiration of a certification due to lack of notification of a change to their contact/email information.


Test Security

Candidates who apply and sit for the CHEST National Certification Examination must acknowledge that they understand the following:

- The CHEST National Certification Examination is the exclusive property of the Association for the Health Care Environment of the American Hospital Association.
- Federal copyright law protects the CHEST examination and the items contained therein;
- The retention, possession, copying, distribution, disclosure, discussion or receipt of any CHEST certification examination question, in whole or in part, by written, electronic, oral or other form of communication, including but not limited to texting, emailing, copying or printing of electronic files, and reconstruction through memorization and/or dictation, before, during or after the examination is strictly prohibited.
- Theft or attempted theft of examination content is punishable as a felony;
- Candidate participation in any irregularity occurring during or after this examination such as giving or obtaining unauthorized information or aid, as evidenced by an observation or subsequent statistical analysis, may be sufficient cause to terminate participation, invalidate the results of the examination, or necessitate other appropriate action; and
- Incidents regarding test security or examination administration will be reported to the CHEST Oversight Committee. Grounds for sanction may be undertaken with AHA legal counsel.

Professional Standards of Conduct





**CONTENT IN THIS HANDBOOK, INCLUDING POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE MOST RECENT VERSION OF THE HANDBOOK ONLINE AT WWW.AHE.ORG.**

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