AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HISTOCOMPATIBILITY AND IMMUNOGENETICS

THE RECOGNIZED LEADER IN CLINICAL HISTOCOMPATIBILITY TESTING

2026

ASHI PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

2026 ASHI Proficiency Testing Program

ASHI is pleased to announce the 24th year of its comprehensive proficiency testing program.

Our program utilizes clinically-based samples to assess a laboratory's ability to accurately perform its analyses. All surveys are graded using established criteria with oversight by ASHI's Proficiency Testing Committee. Subscribers also have the opportunity to participate in ungraded challenges which are provided for educational purposes only.

The Proficiency Testing (PT) program is designed to fully meet the latest ASHI standards for laboratory accreditation.

ASHI is accepted by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) as an alternative proficiency testing program provider.

There is international participation by laboratories in more than 20 countries.

The ASHI PT Program:

- Offers a user-friendly data submission website featuring easy results entry.
- Current survey categories include: Antibody Screening/Identification and Crossmatching (AC), HLA Typing (HT), Engraftment Monitoring (EMO) and ABO Molecular Genotyping (ABO). The HLA-B27 Detection survey and the ABO survey are offered within the HT survey using the HT samples. (See HT section for further details.)
- Cells provided for crossmatch are typed for HLA-A, B, C, DRB1, DRB3/4/5, DQA1, DQB1, DPA1, and DPB1 by molecular methods.
- The Virtual Crossmatch (VXM) challenge is offered to subscribers of the AC survey for educational purposes only. The optional challenge gives subscribers from each AC survey region the opportunity to utilize their own AC survey antibody results in conjunction with donor cell typing from another region (assigned by the PT Committee) to perform virtual crossmatch assessments that can be compared to actual crossmatch results from AC survey responses.

  Instructions for participating in the VXM challenge are sent to AC participants following the result submission deadline (of each AC survey) but prior to the release of the AC Summary Report. Data analysis of each challenge is released following the completion of the Summary Reports for each AC survey.
- To reflect routine clinical testing, results for Class I and Class II typing (HT survey) or for Class I and Class II antibody identification and crossmatching (AC survey) are reported using the same samples.
- The HT survey is for low resolution and/or high resolution typing.
- If your laboratory is located in the U.S. or Canada and is accredited by CAP, ASHI is able to report your ASHI PT Survey Performance scores directly to CAP for the AC, HT, HLA-B27 Detection, and EMO surveys.
- Summary Reports and concurrent individual Performance Reports present data in a concise and informative fashion, with emphasis on the educational goals of the ASHI Proficiency Testing Program.

For further information, please contact the PT Program Manager, Cheryl Hartman, by email: chartman@ashi-hla.org.

www.ashi-hla.org

PROFICIENCY TESTING CATEGORIES

1. SERUM ANTIBODY SCREENING/ IDENTIFICATION AND CROSSMATCHING

Two shipments annually are designed to assess laboratory performance in HLA Class I and Class II serum screening/antibody detection and/or crossmatching (T-cells and B-cells) if desired.

- One AC module consists of two shipments totaling 10 serum (or recalcified plasma) samples plus four whole blood samples per year. This combination of samples will result in 20 crossmatch challenges per year. Participants can choose to analyze survey samples by any method used in their laboratories.
- T**he AO module provides a discount to laboratories that do not need to perform crossmatching and consists of 10 serum (or recalcified plasma) samples only per year, with no whole blood samples.**
- Subscribers needing additional serum volumes can order an ACS module in addition to ordering the AC or AO modules.
- Subscribers needing additional whole blood volumes can order an ACC module in addition to ordering the AC module.
- The AC and AO surveys include the option to report antibody identification by solid phase testing of complement fixing antibodies (C1q).
- The AC and AO surveys also include the option to report antibodies against Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor (AT1R) as an ungraded, educational challenge.

HLA ANTIBODY SCREENING/CROSSMATCHING (AC)		
	MODULE CODE	**DESCRIPTION OF EACH SHIPMENT**
HLA Antibody Screening/Identification **and/or** Crossmatching	**AC**	Five - 1.0 ml serum samples Two – 8.0 ml whole blood samples in CPDA-1
HLA Antibody Screening/Identification **without** Crossmatching	**AO**	Five - 1.0 ml serum samples (whole blood samples NOT included)
Supplemental Whole Blood Volume	**ACC**	Two – 4.0 ml whole blood samples in CPDA-1
Supplemental Serum Volume	**ACS**	Five - 0.5 ml serum samples

2. HLA TYPING FOR HLA-A, B, Bw, C, DRB1, DRB3/4/5, DQB1, DQA1, DPB1, and DPA1

Two shipments annually, for a total of 10 whole blood samples, are designed to assess laboratory performance in HLA typing by molecular methods.

- If additional sample volume is desired, one supplemental module (HTS) may be ordered. An HTS module may not be ordered without also ordering the HT module.
- The HT-B27 Detection survey is offered within the HT survey using the HLA typing (HT) samples (no additional samples are required to participate in the B27 survey). Laboratories that wish to submit HT-B27 results and receive B27 Summary and Performance Reports should subscribe to the HT-B27 module.
- The graded ABO Molecular Genotyping survey is optional and is offered within the HT survey. (Labs that opt-in for the ABO survey use the HT samples to participate.)

HLA TYPING (HT)		
	MODULE CODE	**DESCRIPTION OF EACH SHIPMENT**
Molecular Typing	**HT**	Five - 1.2 ml whole blood samples in CPDA-1
HT-B27 Detection		(No additional samples provided; HT samples are also used for B27.)
Supplemental Sample Volume	**HTS**	Five - 1.2 ml whole blood samples in CPDA-1
ABO Molecular Genotyping	**ABO**	(No additional samples; HT samples are used for ABO as well.)

3. ENGRAFTMENT MONITORING

Two shipments annually are designed for laboratories determining engraftment following bone marrow/stem cell transplantation and/or monitoring chimerism after organ transplantation. Each kit contains whole blood samples from two different individuals and five unknown admixtures of those cells.

ENGRAFTMENT MONITORING (EMO)		
	MODULE CODE	**DESCRIPTION OF EACH SHIPMENT**
Engraftment Monitoring	**EMO**	Two - 0.5 ml whole blood samples in CPDA-1 Five - 0.5 ml admixtures of these samples in CPDA-1

SHIPPING INFORMATION

- International shipping charges reflect differences in ASHI costs for shipping to each country.
- For shipping purposes, there is a 35-character limit for each address line of a shipping address.
- P.O. boxes are not acceptable as shipping addresses.
- Participants must include the complete laboratory address, including building number and street name, in the shipping address.
- PT shipments sent to addresses in the USA are shipped via Priority Overnight Service.
- PT shipments sent to addresses outside the USA are shipped via International Priority Service.
- Upon receipt of any sample, it is the responsibility of the receiving laboratory to inspect the shipment for any damage and notify ASHI Headquarters by email within 24 hours of sample receipt if a sample is received broken, or in otherwise unsuitable condition. Photo documentation of the damage should be provided as well as the date samples were received.
- For further details about replacement samples, please refer to the PT Operations Manual on the ASHI website's PT page: https://www.ashi-hla.org/page/PT.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

- Prior to the shipment date, international subscribers must obtain and complete the necessary documentation required by their country for the importation of non-hazardous human blood samples for proficiency testing/medical research use.
- Copies of all such documents must be forwarded to the ASHI PT Program Manager at the time the PT order is placed.
- No replacements will be made for international shipments that are refused entry into a country.
- Due to the unstable nature of target cells, replacement samples may not be available for some surveys.
- International subscribers should be aware that shipping AC cells internationally carries certain risks, including reduced viability and potential quality concerns. These issues may affect the reliability of results for the AC survey. To help ensure more consistent testing outcomes, international laboratories are encouraged to order the AO module (antibody identification only) rather than the AC module.
- Duties and/or import taxes imposed by the importing country are the receiving laboratory's responsibility.
- Requests for customized documents must be submitted by email 30 days prior to shipment and will be subject to additional processing fees. Appropriate documentation to support the request must be submitted at the time of the request.

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