CANRA
Canadian Alliance of Naturopathic Regulatory Authorities

CANRA-QE (Qualifying Examinations) Practical Examination

Objective Structure Clinical Examination (OSCE)

Candidate Handbook

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canra.ca · info@canra.ca

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General Information

About the Canadian Alliance of Naturopathic Regulatory Authorities (CANRA)

CANRA was established in 2016 with the goal of protecting the integrity of naturopathic regulation by educating and unifying jurisdictions toward the collective goal of public health and safety. CANRA is composed of members who are provincial naturopathic regulators from across Canada that license over 3,000 registered members who practice the profession. CANRA's members are the regulatory bodies (also known as Colleges) who work collaboratively, demonstrating leadership and accountability on matters which support the regulatory mandate of each provincial jurisdiction to protect the public interest in a consistent national approach.

Learn more here: www.canra.ca/about

In support of its mandate, CANRA developed a national entry-to-practice Competency Profile (2023). The Competency Profile describes the minimum expectations of an individual applying for a naturopathic doctor (ND) license in Canada.

The CANRA Qualifying Examination (CANRA-QE) is a competency-based national suite of entry-to-practice examinations for all applicants seeking licensure in CANRA member jurisdictions. The CANRA Qualifying Examinations (CANRA-QE) are composed of:

- An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) (the practical examination component), and
- A two-part multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination (the Written Component).

This Candidate Handbook describes the CANRA-QE Practical Examination, the OSCE.

Note: Reference to license in this document is intended to encompass all the registration titles used by CANRA member regulators.

Purpose and Structure of the Entry-to-Practice OSCE

The purpose of the OSCE is to serve as the national entry-to-practice practical examination for those seeking licensure as a Naturopathic Doctor in Canada. It is designed to assess the minimum level of competency - knowledge, skills, and attitudes - required to perform naturopathy/naturopathic medicine safely, ethically, and competently. Candidate success on this examination contributes to establishing confidence in candidate proficiency as a naturopathic doctor (ND).

The competencies assessed align to CANRA's National Entry-to-Practice Competency Profile for Naturopathic Doctors (2023) which consists of 22 key competencies and 62 enabling competencies grouped thematically under 5 domains:

1. Professionalism
2. Communication
3. Assessment and Diagnosis
4. Therapeutic Management
5. Records Management

Key competencies are defined as the essential knowledge, skill and/or judgement required of a naturopathic doctor at entry-to-practice. Enabling competencies outline the relevant knowledge and

skills that contribute to the achievement of the key competency. Individuals must be able to demonstrate all key and enabling competencies to qualify for an ND license.

Learn more here: www.canra.ca/national-competencies

Candidates are scored in Eleven (11) topic areas aligned to four (4) of the five (5) domains across multiple stations. *Note: Domain 5. Records Management is not assessed in the OSCE format.*

The OSCE assesses there 11 topic areas:

1. Informed consent
2. Patient health history assessment
3. Physical examination
4. Diagnostic testing
5. Differential diagnosis
6. Therapeutic planning, implementation, and monitoring of care
7. Treatment techniques and safety
8. Emergency management
9. Interprofessional collaboration
10. Therapeutic doctor-patient relationship
11. Professional and ethical practice

See Appendix A: Examination Blueprint for the OSCE Specification Matrix and Station Topics Summary.

Eligibility and Registration

Eligibility (Pre-Clearance)

Eligibility to sit the Entry-to-Practice OSCE is determined by the regulatory body in the jurisdiction in which you intend to register. Candidates must confirm eligibility requirements with the applicable provincial regulator prior to applying for the examination and receive a pre-clearance approval to register for the examination from their regulatory jurisdiction. Information regarding CANRA's current member regulators is available on the CANRA website, talk to the regulators directly to seek pre-clearance approval.

Learn more here: www.canra.ca/about

Confirmation of Identity

Candidates must present valid government-issued photo identification at the registration desk on examination day. The name on your identification must match the name under which you registered for the examination. Candidates who cannot confirm their identity will not be permitted to sit the examination.

Registration Procedures

Details regarding how to register for the examination, confirm your place on the examination-day roster, and receive your assigned date and location will be communicated to all eligible (pre-cleared) candidates in advance of each administration. Candidates are responsible securing pre-clearance from the regulatory authority and for ensuring that their contact information is current and that all registration steps are completed by the published deadlines.

Testing Accommodations & Medical Assistive Devices

CANRA is committed to providing fair and equitable processes, which may include consideration of reasonable accommodations. Accommodations include any adjustments to testing conditions, examination requirements, or scheduling that address a participant's needs related to a disability (physical or cognitive, including learning disabilities), a health condition, or religious obligations.

Candidates seeking accommodations are required to submit a formal request together with supporting documentation, to their regulatory jurisdiction, by the published deadline for the administration in question. Please contact your regulatory jurisdiction for further information, links to CANRA member regulators can be found here: www.canra.ca/about

Please note medical devices like hearing aids, crutches, blood glucose monitors, insulin pumps etc. must be approved, by CANRA, in advance and will be subject to security inspection at the exam site.

Examination Day

Exam Day Procedure

You will report to the registration desk on examination day and will be asked to:

- Present your valid, government issued, photo ID;
- Turn off your electronic devices;
- Check in your personal belongings, including all electronics, large jewelry and watches, and all smart devices, and food, (except the items and equipment required for the examination);
- Sign an Exam Conduct Agreement;
- Receive your candidate badge, a notebook, pencils, and one sheet of labels; and
- Sign in.

During the examination, your personal belongings will be kept in the registration area. We ask that you leave your valuables off site. CANRA can not be responsible for personal items left at security.

Site Access

Please remain outside the building until a CANRA team member instructs you to enter. You will be guided to the location at which you will register for the examination. Please limit your time at the examination site to your scheduled sign-in and examination period. Please do not bring family members or guests to the exam site.

Once you have completed your examination and signed out, we ask that you leave the site promptly. If you need to wait for transportation or are carpooling, please plan to meet away from the examination site.

Dress Code

Since the temperature at the examination site and in the OSCE stations is beyond the control of site staff, it is suggested that you wear layered clothing for flexibility. You should dress in a manner that is consistent with professional clinical practice, and that permits you to perform the physical examination, manipulation, and treatment tasks required in the stations. Clinic jackets and scrubs are welcomed but are not required.

Required Items and Equipment

You are required to bring the following items and equipment to the examination, please bring a clear unlabelled plastic bag, large enough to carry these items with you, all items will be inspected at security. Please do not bring any additional items including instruction manuals or carry cases:

Ophthalmoscope & Snellen/Rosenbaum chart(s)	Stethoscope	Thermometer (with disposable probe covers if appropriate)
Otoscope with disposable ear specula	Reflex hammer	Tuning fork(s)
Sphygmomanometer	Penlight	Optional: • Clear water bottle • PPE mask/face shield

You are not required to bring the following items, as they will be available on site during the examination:

- Hand sanitizer
- Disposable gloves
- Notepad
- Pencil
- Exam ID labels
- Skin pads
- Needles

Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited during the examination:

- Food, unless granted for this examination as part of a documented testing accommodation;
- Books, papers, or any hardcopy study reference material; and
- Cellular phones, pocket PCs, digital watches/smart devices, and audio or video recording or transmitting devices.

Electronic devices must be turned off at check-in and stored with your personal belongings. Possession of any of these devices during the examination (including in a rest station) is considered a violation and may result in appropriate action as deemed necessary by CANRA, including, but not limited to, nullification of your examination without refund.

Cellphones are not accessible once you have signed in for the examination.

Routine Practices and Infection Prevention

If you feel unwell or have symptoms that could be contagious (e.g., cold, flu), please consider whether attending the examination might pose a risk to yourself or to others. If you have concerns about your health, contact CANRA at info@canra.info in advance to discuss possible options.

For the safety of all participants and staff, CANRA may ask anyone who appears visibly unwell to leave the examination site.

Masking is optional for all examination participants, including candidates and standardized patients. While optional, masking is highly recommended for those who:

- Have symptoms of a respiratory virus;
- Are caring for someone who is sick; or
- Are a close contact of someone who is sick.

Examination Structure and Format

OSCE Design

The practical exam is structured as a rotational OSCE consisting of six (6) active stations and one (1) pre-test station encompassing the four (4) assessable domains Professionalism, Communication, Assessment and Diagnosis, and Therapeutic Management, assessed within seven essential naturopathic skills or topics.

The seven topics are:

- Topic 1 - Physical Examination I: Head and Neck
- Topic 2 - Physical Examination II: Chest and Abdomen
- Topic 3 - Differential Diagnosis I: General
- Topic 4 - Differential Diagnosis II: Musculoskeletal
- Topic 5 - Manipulation
- Topic 6 - Acupuncture
- Topic 7 - Emergency Management Preparedness (integrated across stations)

Additionally, each track will contain at least one rest station.

Detailed score criteria, content, and context specifications for each station topic are outlined in Appendix A.

The total examination time is approximately 3.5 - 4 hours, with additional time for registration, orientation and sequestering. Plan for a total on-site time of approximately 5-6 hours. You will be assigned to either a morning (am) or an afternoon (pm) session, you can not choose your time, and you can not switch your time with another candidate.

Rest Stations

A rest station is a non-assessment period inserted into the OSCE rotation. During a rest station, you may, use the restroom in the rest station and use the time to rest and collect your thoughts while you wait for the announcement to proceed to your next station. You will remain under full test security conditions during this time.

Station Components and Time Allocation

Each station is 25 minutes in length. Components and time allocations are consistent across all stations and must be strictly adhered to in order to ensure a standardized experience for all candidates. Specific announcements will guide you through each component.

The time allocation within a station is:

Component	Time	Description
Reading the stem	2 minutes	Move between stations and read the instructions posted on the station door.
Patient interaction	15 minutes	Enter the station and interact with the standardized patient to complete the station challenge.
Topic-specific oral questions	4 minutes	Respond to oral questions specific to the station topic.
Emergency management questions	4 minutes	Respond to oral questions related to emergency management preparedness (may be unrelated to station topic).
Total	25 minutes	

Standardized Patients

Each OSCE station includes a standardized patient or patients who have been recruited and trained in accordance with the station descriptions and context specifications outlined in the examination materials. Standardized patients follow standardized scripts to interact with candidates which are triggered under specific circumstances based on your approach, ensuring consistent and objective assessment for all candidates.

You are expected to approach the standardized patient as if they are a real patient.

Examiners

Examiners are practicing Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) licensed and in good standing with their respective regulatory college with at least three years of experience working as an ND. Examiners undergo rigorous training to ensure alignment and understanding of the scoring tools and criteria; in this way, scoring consistency and standardization is enhanced.

Each station is assigned up to two examiners. In addition, other key personnel may rotate through the stations to support the exam administration. The standardized patients and examiners receive comprehensive training prior to the exam and are provided with detailed instructions and guidelines.

Scoring Tool

A scoring tool is used to guide examiner scoring of your performance in three areas for each station. These three areas are used to inform decisions regarding candidate ability and the outcome of the examination:

1. Score criteria: Your ability on each score criterion is scored using a scale. Score criteria are coupled with detailed behavioural expectations to enhance the reliability of results.

2. Overall station score: Your overall performance on the station is scored by the examiner using professional judgement along a rating scale that identifies candidates performing at, below, and above the borderline.

3. Red flags: Behaviour or actions that are deemed inappropriate and/or could potentially result in serious harm to the patient are described for each station and scored by the examiner using a checklist.

Final scoring and successful/unsuccessful decisions are made by CANRA following the examination, using psychometrically appropriate methods.

What to Expect During the OSCE

Beginning the Examination

When you are brought to your track you will be asked to stand in front of your station with your back turned, facing away from the station instructions. Do not turn and begin reading the station until instructed to do so. Candidates are expected to always maintain exam conditions, respecting the exam and those around them. Please read silently at the door and do not interact with other students or track staff outside of your station.

During a Station

When you arrive at an OSCE station, you will see an instruction sheet, called a stem, posted on the door or wall. This stem outlines the tasks, expectations, and relevant case details for that station and helps you make the most of your time. All necessary information is either provided or can be elicited through appropriate questioning; there are no "tricks" in the examination.

An identical copy of the stem is also available inside the station for reference.

To perform effectively in each station, you are expected to:

- Approach each station as if it were a real clinical setting: interact with the standardized patient and carry out the required tasks just as you would in actual practice. This includes gathering relevant information, explaining your actions, and responding to the patient's needs in a professional, empathetic manner.
- Focus your approach: tailor your interaction to the specific clinical problem or scenario and the tasks outlined in the stem.
- Manage your time: complete all required tasks within the allotted time.
- Read carefully: pay close attention to every detail in the stem.
- Perform tasks thoroughly: if you are required to demonstrate a diagnostic test or technique, carry out all required steps.
- Articulate your steps: Speak clearly and explain what you are doing and why.
- Use available resources: refer back to the stem, your notes, and any provided or available props to clarify or confirm important information.

Props

A "prop" is any physical or electronic resource provided within an OSCE station to help you complete the tasks or demonstrate relevant clinical skills. Examples include patient files, medical charts, laboratory results, imaging studies, medication lists, and other materials that are integral to the station scenario. Props are standardized for each station and can be used or referenced by the candidate at appropriate times during the interaction. Certain props that do not require prompting will be available for you to use. Pay close attention to the details in the stem to avoid missing essential information.

Station-Specific Prompts

Examiner prompts are standardized cues, instructions, or pieces of information provided by the station examiner during the OSCE. These prompts are triggered based on specific actions or inquiries made by the candidate, or when the candidate performs a required activity within the station. Examiner prompts ensure consistent and fair delivery of necessary data, such as vital signs or laboratory results, and help guide the interaction without altering the standardized nature of the examination.

Stations may include standardized prompts that the examiner will deliver during your interaction with the standardized patient, based on what you say or do. For instance, if you indicate that you are taking the patient's temperature and a prompt has been set for this activity, the examiner will say something like, "Temperature: 39.2° Celsius." It is important that you explain what actions you are planning to take so that the examiner can provider the appropriate prompts.

Some prompts are triggered when you correctly perform a required activity; others are more general. For example, upon entering the station, the examiner may remind you to provide your candidate number (label) or sanitize your hands.

If you ask for clarification or additional information not covered by the station's specific prompts, the examiner will direct you to reread the instructions and continue with the interaction. All prompts are fixed and standardized for each station; examiners will not improvise or create new prompts during the examination.

Announcements

Announcements are used to coordinate station timing. You must wait for each announcement before moving to the next station. Announcements are made throughout the entirety of the examination to indicate:

- The beginning of the examination
- When to enter the station;
- When to stop your interaction with the standardized patient and begin oral questioning;
- Additional time warnings are provided
- When to exit the station.

The sequence of announcements is as follows:

- Start of Exam begin reading: you are directed to begin reading the stem at the beginning of the exam only – once the exam has started you move immediately to the next station and begin reading when you hear the "end of station" prompt.
- Enter station: you are instructed to enter the station and start the interaction with the standardized patient.
- five minutes remaining: you are notified that you have five (5) minutes remaining with the standardized patient.
- Begin oral questioning: you must stop your SP interaction you have four (4) minutes to answer scenario-specific oral questions, if you complete these questions in less than four minutes you must wait in silence until the four-minute warning.
- Four minutes remaining: you are notified that you have four (4) minutes until the end of the station emergency-management oral questions begin, regardless of whether you have completed all the station specific oral questions.

- End of station: the final announcement directs you to leave the station and move immediately to the next station and begin reading.

After completing a station, you have two (2) minutes to move to the next station and begin reading its stem. Track staff guide you to your station.

Station Supplies and Equipment

All supplies, items, and equipment required in each station - beyond what you are personally required to bring - will be provided. This may include an exam table, chair, tissues, acupuncture needles, and other relevant materials. Please note that exam tables, which may be standard massage tables, are set at a fixed height and cannot be adjusted. In stations where the scenario does not demand an exam table one may not be provided.

Hand sanitizer is available in every station; you are expected to use it both before and after interacting with each standardized patient. There is no access to running water or soap between stations. Examiners may remind you to sanitize when you enter the station, this is not a scored item.

Equipment sterilization wipes will be available in every station to ensure your instruments are clean prior to use on the standardized patient.

Note-taking Provisions

You will receive a notebook with blank pages and pencils for notetaking while reading the station stem or during the station itself. Please be aware that this notebook will be collected at the end of the examination and must be returned intact, with no pages removed or torn out. Your notebook is for your own personal reference during the exam and its content will not be reviewed or scored.

Examination Security and Candidate Conduct

The Entry-to-Practice OSCE is a high-stakes regulatory examination. Its defensibility depends on the integrity of the examination content and on the professional conduct of every candidate who participates in it.

Prior to the examination, candidates will be required to sign an Exam Conduct Agreement, including a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) that speaks to their obligation to protect the confidentiality of examination content. The NDA limits candidates' ability to share specific details about their examination experience outside of the formal appeals process. This requirement exists to deter candidates from creating an unfair advantage for those completing the OSCE after them, and to protect the safety of the public receiving naturopathic care from candidates assessed in future administrations.

Candidates are expected to approach the examination with professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to the confidentiality of the process. Breaches of the Exam Conduct Agreement may result in action by CANRA, up to and including invalidation of examination results, without refund, legal action, and may be reported to the regulatory body in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking or holds a license.

Results

Following each examination administration, all score forms are forwarded to CANRA's psychometric consultant for analysis and scoring. The process utilizes both hardware and software designed specifically for use in testing environments, where accuracy is paramount. Raw data is reviewed for accuracy and completeness before any analysis is conducted. Scoring and standard-setting for the Entry-to-Practice OSCE are conducted using psychometrically defensible methods appropriate to a performance-based assessment.

The examination employs a fully compensatory scoring model, meaning that a candidate's final score is based solely on their performance across all stations. There is no pass/fail status at the individual station level.

Each item undergoes a thorough psychometric review, called item analysis, to ensure the required statistical parameters are met and that the item is functioning as intended. Items flagged for review are brought before the Examination Oversight Committee at a post-exam item review meeting to determine if they are appropriate to include in scoring. Items that are removed from scoring for any reason are removed for all candidates. The remaining items having satisfied the required statistical parameters, are valid scoring items.

Candidate scores are calculated utilizing statistical software. Any candidate who is unsuccessful on the first scoring pass is reviewed to ensure scoring accuracy; their raw data is also re-checked to ensure accuracy during the scoring process.

Results are reported as either Successful or Unsuccessful. Results are communicated in writing to each candidate. A summary of the candidate's overall result is also reported to the regulatory body in the jurisdiction in which the candidate has received pre-clearance. Performance information is provided only to unsuccessful candidates and is intended to support preparation for any future reassessment.

Results are released to the candidates within 4-6 weeks of the examination administration.

Curved grading is not used and pass rates may vary from administration to administration. It is possible for all candidates who challenge the examination to be successful.

Appeals

Appeals are limited solely to questions concerning procedural or environmental irregularities or matters that could reasonably have affected a candidate's examination performance, but where outside of the candidates control. Candidates are expected to arrive at the examination ready to test and should not begin an attempt unless they feel prepared to do so.

Incident reports detailing issues with the examination must be filed with 48 hours of the examination administration.

Appeals can not be submitted without an incident report having been filed.

Consult the Examination Policy Manual for a comprehensive list of all Exam policies.

Re-Takes

Should you be unsuccessful on the examination you will be required to re-take the entire examination. The OSCE is scored in a fully compensatory manner, and partial retakes are not permitted.

Appendix A: Examination Blueprint

The blueprint for the CANRA-QE OSCE was developed through an evidence-based and collaborative process led by the Canadian Alliance of Naturopathic Regulatory Authorities (CANRA) and its Exam Development Committee (EDC). The EDC was composed of subject matter experts (practicing Naturopathic Doctors representing regulators, practitioners, and educators, together with external consultants with expertise in competency profile development, practice analysis, examination design, and psychometrics. The blueprint aligns with CANRA's National Entry-to-Practice Competency Profile for Naturopathic Doctors (2023) and was developed with reference to the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing.

The blueprint identifies the competencies assessed on the examination, the score criteria used to evaluate candidate performance, and the station topics in which those competencies are observed. The sections that follow describe the examination at the level of detail candidates require to prepare.

Competency Profile Definitions

The blueprint uses the following terms, which are drawn from CANRA's National Entry-to-Practice Competency Profile for Naturopathic Doctors (2023):

- Competency: an ability required of a Naturopathic Doctor to enable safe, effective, and ethical practice.
- Key Competency: the important outcome of a competency objective (what is to be achieved or performed).
- Enabling Competency: the sub-objective or ingredient to achieving a key competency.
- Score Criterion: an observable area of candidate performance that examiners score during a station. Each score criterion is mapped to one or more key competencies and their associated enabling competencies.

Candidates are scored on 11 score criteria aligned to four assessable domains containing a total of 20 key competencies and 58 enabling competencies from the 2023 Competency Profile.

OSCE Exam content weighting by Domain

Domain (ordered by weighting)	Weighting (range by %)
Assessment and Diagnosis	46-53%
Therapeutic Management	22-28%
Communication	15-21%
Professionalism	6-12%

Note: Records Management is not assessed in the OSCE format.

Score Criteria

The 11 score criteria, grouped by domain, are:

Assessment and Diagnosis

- Informed Consent: Clearly and accurately communicates the necessary information to receive informed consent for all patient interactions and throughout the term of care.
- Patient Health History Assessment: Completes a patient-centred health history interview to establish the main concern.
- Physical Examination: Performs a physical exam by selecting relevant assessment equipment and techniques to examine the patient.
- Diagnostic Testing: Uses diagnostic testing to aid in patient assessment and interprets results using evidence-informed clinical reasoning.
- Differential Diagnosis: Integrates the patient's health history, physical examination, diagnostic testing, critical thinking, and clinical reasoning to formulate possible differential diagnoses and communicates findings and implications with the patient.

Therapeutic Management

- Therapeutic Planning: Implementation and Monitoring of Care. Creates, implements, and monitors a therapeutic plan based on patient's diagnosis, determinants of health, evidence-informed practice, patient preferences, and naturopathic principles.
- Treatment Techniques and Safety: Informs the patient about planned procedures and performs them demonstrating an understanding, and application, of safe techniques and maintaining infection prevention.
- Emergency Management: Recognizes and manages emergency situations by initiating appropriate interventions, understanding responsibilities and limitations within scope of practice.

Communication

- Interprofessional Collaboration: Participates in interprofessional collaboration as authorized by the patient when care is outside of scope of practice or personal competence.
- Therapeutic Doctor-Patient Relationship: Establishes therapeutic relationships and maintains appropriate professional boundaries with patients.

Professionalism

- Professional and Ethical Practice: Demonstrates ethical conduct and integrity in professional practice by adhering to regulatory standards and high- quality patient care. which govern the practice of naturopathy.

Please refer to the National Entry-to-Practice Competency Profile for Naturopathic Doctors for more detailed information on the key and enabling competencies.

Station Topics

Candidate's ability on the score criteria is assessed across seven essential naturopathic topics. The seven topics are:

- Topic 1: Physical Examination I: Head and Neck
- Topic 2: Physical Examination II: Chest and Abdomen
- Topic 3: Differential Diagnosis I: General
- Topic 4: Differential Diagnosis II: Musculoskeletal
- Topic 5: Manipulation
- Topic 6: Acupuncture
- Topic 7: Emergency Management and Preparedness (integrated as examiner oral questions within each station)

All candidates will be assessed on all seven topics, including Acupuncture, regardless of the jurisdiction in which they intend to seek licensure. The sections that follow describe the core competencies assessed and the format of each station.

Topic 1: Physical Examination I: Head and Neck

Primary Objective

To assess the candidate's ability to safely, ethically, and competently perform a physical examination of the head and neck area, including appropriate selection and use of instruments.

Core Competencies in Physical Examination I: Head and Neck

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to aspects of completing a physical examination of the head and neck area, which includes all points above the clavicles (i.e., the head and scalp, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, cranial nerves, and neck structures), including:

- Taking vitals, i.e., blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and heart rate, if appropriate
- Anatomy, including normal and abnormal findings and appropriate medical terminology
- Proper selection and use of instruments
- Appropriate patient positioning and draping
- Formulating and considering a differential diagnosis based on findings
- Professionalism and communication throughout the patient interaction

Station Format

Candidates will interact with a standardized patient as if in a real clinical setting. The patient will present with a complaint and symptoms related to one of the following categories: ear, eye, neurological, or oral. The candidate is expected to complete a comprehensive assessment.

Station Tasks

The candidate will be instructed to:

- Complete a relevant health history of the complaint
- Complete a relevant physical examination (including vitals if appropriate)
- Describe what is being assessed for and why throughout the examination, including the purpose for selected instruments
- Use appropriate medical terminology
- Describe and respond to findings
- Address patient concerns
- Respond to examiner oral questions

Topic 2: Physical Examination II: Chest and Abdomen

Primary Objective

To assess the candidate's ability to safely, ethically, and competently perform a physical examination of the chest and abdomen area, including appropriate selection and use of instruments.

Core Competencies in Physical Examination II: Chest and Abdomen

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to aspects of a physical examination of the chest and abdomen area, which includes all points connected to the lungs, heart and all organs found within the abdominal cavity, including the femoral, tibial and dorsal pedal pulses, including:

- Taking vitals, i.e., blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and heart rate, if appropriate
- Anatomy, including normal and abnormal findings and appropriate medical terminology
- Proper selection and use of instruments
- Appropriate patient positioning and draping
- Formulating and considering a differential diagnosis based on findings
- Professionalism and communication throughout the patient interaction

Station Format

Candidates will interact with a standardized patient as if in a real clinical setting. The patient will present with a complaint and symptoms related to one of the following categories: cardiovascular, respiratory, or abdominal. The candidate is expected to complete a comprehensive assessment.

Station Tasks

The candidate will be instructed to:

- Complete a relevant health history of the complaint
- Complete a relevant physical examination (including vitals if appropriate)
- Describe what is being assessed for and why throughout the examination, including the purpose for selected instruments
- Use appropriate medical terminology
- Describe and respond to findings
- Address patient concerns
- Respond to examiner oral questions

Topic 3: Differential Diagnosis I: General

Primary Objective

To assess the candidate's ability to safely, ethically, and competently formulate and communicate a differential diagnosis based on patient assessment findings and the selection and interpretation of appropriate diagnostic tests.

Core Competencies in Differential Diagnosis I: General

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to formulating a differential diagnosis, including:

- Selecting and interpreting recommended diagnostic tests and investigations (including those not within scope of practice)
- Communicating the differential diagnosis to the patient, including responding to patient questions
- Recognizing when a case is beyond the scope of practice, and when and how to refer a patient
- Professionalism and communication throughout the patient interaction

Station Format

Candidates will interact with a standardized patient as if in a real clinical setting. The patient will present with a complaint and symptoms. Partial patient health history and other assessment findings may be made available to the candidate, who must interact with the patient to elicit further information. Diagnostic tests may relate to any of the following categories: laboratory testing (including blood, stool, urine, saliva, hair, tissue, discharge, and sputum); imaging (including X-rays, ultrasound, CT scans, and MRI); or procedural diagnostics (for example, ECG, colonoscopy, biopsy, or endoscopy).

Station Tasks

The candidate will be instructed to:

- Gather relevant patient information
- Use the patient information provided to select and consider relevant diagnostic tests and their results
- Communicate findings with the patient
- Address patient concerns
- Respond to examiner oral questions

Topic 4: Differential Diagnosis II: Musculoskeletal

Primary Objective

To assess the candidate's ability to safely, ethically, and competently formulate and communicate a differential diagnosis while screening for musculoskeletal conditions using patient health history, orthopedic, or other relevant tests.

Core Competencies in Differential Diagnosis II: Musculoskeletal

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to formulating a differential diagnosis, including:

- Selecting and interpreting recommended orthopedic tests and investigations (including those not within scope of practice)
- Communicating the differential diagnosis, including responding to patient questions and recognizing when a case is beyond the scope of practice, and when and how to refer a patient

Aspects of completing orthopedic testing, including:

- Range of motion and orthopedic tests for the pathologies that correspond to the joint
- Bony landmarks, tendon origins, and insertions
- Ligamentous structures
- Primary action of muscles
- Musculoskeletal innervation
- Appropriate patient positioning
- Identifying urgent and emergent conditions that may present as musculoskeletal conditions
- Professionalism and communication throughout the patient interaction

Station Format

Candidates will interact with a standardized patient as if in a real clinical setting. Prior history-taking information may be made available to the candidate. The patient will present with a complaint and symptoms related to one of the following categories: shoulder, knee, ankle and foot, wrist and hand, hip, elbow, or spine.

Station Tasks

The candidate will be instructed to:

- Complete a relevant health history of the complaint
- Complete a focused orthopedic examination of the relevant joint or spinal region
- Select and consider relevant orthopedic tests and relevant investigations (including imaging)
- Describe what is being assessed for and why throughout the examination, using appropriate medical terminology
- Describe and respond to findings
- Communicate findings with the patient
- Address patient concerns
- Respond to examiner oral questions

Topic 5: Manipulation

Primary Objective

To assess the candidate's ability to safely, ethically, and competently perform assessment and manipulation.

Core Competencies in Manipulation

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to aspects of assessment and diagnosis prior to performing manipulation, including:

- Anatomy of spinal segments for Cervical (Occ-C1, C1-Occ, C1-C2, C2-C7), Thoracic (T1-T12), and Lumbar (L1-L5)/Sacroiliac Joint (SI) Inferior and Superior
- Normal and reduced ranges of motion
- Palpation of spinal segments
- Absolute and relative contraindications related to manipulation

Manipulation adjustment techniques, including:

- Appropriate set-up and line of drive
- Appropriate patient positioning
- Professionalism and communication throughout the interaction with the patient

Station Format

Candidates will interact with a standardized patient as if in a real clinical setting. Previous health history may be available in the room. The patient will present with a complaint and symptoms related to one of the following categories: cervical spine (upper, middle, lower); thoracic spine (upper, middle, lower); or lumbar/sacroiliac joint.

Station Tasks

The candidate will be instructed to:

- Complete a relevant health history of the complaint
- Perform a focused physical assessment to assess contraindications to manipulation
- Indicate normal and/or reduced ranges of motion
- Use static and/or motion palpation to determine areas of concern
- Formulate a diagnosis based on findings
- Determine and demonstrate appropriate manipulation without thrust (mime a slow thrust and the correct line of drive)
- Describe what is being assessed for, why, and the manipulation process
- Use appropriate medical terminology
- Address patient concerns
- Respond to examiner oral questions

Do not thrust, adjust or go past the point of tension.

Topic 6: Acupuncture

Primary Objective

To assess the candidate's ability to safely, ethically, and competently assess for, diagnose, and perform acupuncture.

Core Competencies in Acupuncture

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to aspects of completing acupuncture, including:

- Relevant anatomy with respect to acupuncture
- Appropriate patient positioning and draping
- Western and Traditional Chinese Medicine indications and possible contraindications
- Assessment and naturopathic diagnosis of Zang-Fu syndromes, including tongue and pulse assessment
- Needling technique, including appropriate depth and angulation (performed on a simulated skin)
- Appropriate needle disposal
- Safety concerns, cautions, and contraindications
- Professionalism and communication throughout the patient interaction

Station Format

Candidates will interact with a standardized patient as if in a real clinical setting. The patient will present with a complaint and symptoms. The candidate will be provided patient symptoms and a list of possible Zang-Fu syndrome diagnoses (plus or minus five options). Tongue and pulse findings and other relevant information will be provided as and when the candidate attempts to elicit them. The candidate will be required to select the most appropriate Zang-Fu syndrome and, from a list provided, the most appropriate set of acupuncture points for treatment. The candidate will demonstrate needling of one of the four selected points (as directed by the examiner) on an artificial skin pad comprised of a silicon "skin" with a foam "tissue" base.

Station Tasks

The candidate will be instructed to:

- Gather relevant patient information
- Complete the tongue and pulse diagnosis
- Consider the patient information provided to select the most appropriate Zang-Fu syndrome from the list provided
- Select the most appropriate set of acupuncture points (from the list provided) for treatment based on the Zang-Fu syndrome selected (four acupuncture points should be selected)
- Locate all four points on the patient using the blunt end of a wooden cotton swab
- Describe the location of each acupuncture point using anatomical and Traditional Chinese Medicine terms of reference
- Provide at least one Traditional Chinese Medicine and one Western general indication, along with any applicable contraindications, for each of the four points
- Demonstrate needling technique, including pre- and post-needling requirements (e.g., skin swabbing and appropriate needle disposal)

- Demonstrate needling of one of the four points (as directed by the examiner) on an artificial skin pad
- Address patient concerns
- Respond to examiner oral questions

Topic 7: Emergency Management and Preparedness

Topic 7 is a standalone topic, but not a standalone station. It is assessed as examiner oral questions during the emergency oral question component within the station (the final four minutes) and may be related to the station or unrelated.

Primary Objective

To assess the candidate's ability to safely, ethically, and competently identify and respond to acute emergency events.

Core Competencies in Emergency Management and Preparedness

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to aspects of emergency substances, including:

- Correct dosage and route of administration for each of the emergency substances
- Indications and contraindications of each of the emergency substances

How to approach, assess, and manage any possible medical emergency cases that may happen in a medical office, including:

- Signs and symptoms, and assessing degree and severity
- Differential diagnosis in an emergency
- Immediate actions, and rationale
- Long-term actions, and rationale

Format

Candidates will respond to examiner oral questions related to emergency procedures and preparedness embedded within Stations. Examiner oral questions will be drawn from the following categories: dosage and route of emergency substances; indications and contraindications of emergency substances; and assessment and management of an emergency case. Questions may relate to any of the following: anaphylaxis, asthma, and other allergic emergencies; anticoagulant problems and bleeding disorders (including epistaxis, thrombosis, and thrombophlebitis); cardiac events (including acute myocardial infarction, angina, arrhythmia, congestive heart failure, hypertension, hypotension, hypocalcaemia, stroke, and tachycardia); opioid overdose (and use of naloxone); seizures, severe anxiety attacks, and other psychotic or neurological emergencies; hypoglycemia and insulin shock (and differentiating between the two); sepsis; vasovagal reactions; pneumothorax; pneumonia; lymphadenitis; and acupuncture-related emergencies).

Tasks

The candidate will be instructed to respond to examiner oral questions related to emergency management and preparedness.

Canadian Alliance of Naturopathic Regulatory Authorities (CANRA)

1612-17 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2T 0E3

T: 877-334-6668
W: www.canra.ca
E: info@canra.ca