

BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE

New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DIVISION

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New Mexico Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Clinical Skills Examination

General Information

PURPOSE. Under its legislative authority and in the interest of public safety, the New Mexico Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (BAOM) requires licensing candidates to pass a clinical skills examination that demonstrates his or her skills in taking and interpreting vital signs and his or her knowledge of and skill in the diagnostic and treatment techniques of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine with an actual “patient” (a person with a real complaint and an authentic medical history) in a simulated clinical setting.

CONDUCT OF THE EXAM. Both the Biometric and the Oriental Medical examinations are conducted in English by two trained, licensed Doctors of Oriental Medicine who explain procedures, provide all necessary equipment, start the timer, and then listen, observe and record as licensing candidates accomplish tasks and communicate information.

EVALUATION. The combined examinations have a maximum score of 100 points. A passing score is 75 points. Examiners prepare independent records and evaluations. The licensing candidate’s score is an average of the two scores. Results and scores are reviewed and submitted to the Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine by Keda Stella, LLC. The licensing candidate is then notified by the board administration that he or she has passed or failed. No numerical score is given or recorded in the licensing candidate’s record, only a pass or fail.

CONTENT OF THE BIOMETRIC EXAM:

Licensing candidates are required to accurately measure, give normal ranges, classify and explain the significance of the patient’s:

1. Blood pressure (systolic and diastolic)
2. Heart rate and rhythm (using the radial pulse), and
3. Respiratory rate, rhythm and depth

The licensing candidate has 10 minutes to complete this examination. Bates Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking is the reference for this examination.

CONTENTS OF THE ORIENTAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION:

This is an oral examination. The licensing candidate is given blank paper and a pen to take notes and a basic Health History Sheet. The licensing candidate has 45 minutes to complete this examination.

Section One. Questioning

The Licensing Candidate questions the “Patient” concerning:

- a.) The chief complaint and
- b.) The underlying physical and emotional condition (constitution/root).

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Section Two. Physical Examination

The Licensing Candidate examines the “Patient” by:

- a.) **Observations**. Candidate reports on:
 1. The tongue: Its overall color, shape, coat, moisture/dryness and a minimum of two other qualities.
 2. Two additional, complete, independent observations.
- b.) **Palpations**. Candidate palpates and reports on:
 1. The pulse: Its overall depth, rate, excess/deficiency and a minimum of two additional qualities.
 2. Two additional, complete, independent observations.

Section Three. Diagnosis and Treatment Plan

The Licensing Candidate presents:

- a.) A **diagnosis for the chief complaint** with a minimum of **five** conclusions that accurately support this diagnosis and which are based on information gathered from Section One (questioning) and Section Two (physical examination).
 - b.) A **diagnosis for the underlying physical and emotional condition** (constitution/root) with a minimum of **three** conclusions that support this diagnosis and which are based on information gathered from Section One (questioning) and Section Two (physical examination)
- OR,
- a.) and b.) A **combined diagnosis** including both the chief complaint and the underlying physical and emotional condition (constitution/root) with a minimum of **eight** conclusions that support this combined diagnosis and which are based on information gathered from Section One (questioning) and Section Two (physical examination).
The Licensing Candidate must state whether individual diagnosis or a combined diagnosis is going to be presented,

AND

 - c.) A treatment plan to address the totality of this “Patient’s” condition.

Section Four. Treatment and Safety Considerations

The Licensing Candidate presents a complete treatment for the “Patient”.

- a.) **Five to ten** acupuncture points are expected, but not required, to include the name of the point, the depth and angle of insertion, technique(s) and justification for the “Patient”. If point combinations are presented, the combination must be explained.
- b.) Appropriate herbal formula or formulas for this “Patient” with justification and instructions.
- c.) Any other treatment or recommendations for this “Patient” with justification.
- d.) Safety considerations for the points, the herbal formula(s), and for the treatment as a whole.

Chinese Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Beijing Press, second edition, is the reference for needle depth and safety considerations.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARATION.

In preparation for the both examinations, licensing candidates should practice:

- a.) Techniques and skills required by both exams.
- b.) Oral communication.
- c.) Time management.