

FOR BCCNM NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Nurse Practitioner (Adult) Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Blueprint

The nurse practitioner OSCE is designed to assess the clinical skills required for safe, entry-level practice as defined in the following BCCNM documents:

- *Competencies Required for Nurse Practitioners in British Columbia* (pub. 416)
- *Applying the Competencies Required for Nurse Practitioners in British Columbia* (pub. 440)
- *Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners: Standards, Limits and Conditions* (pub. 688)

This blueprint outlines the following essential elements that are covered in the nurse practitioner OSCE:

1. Nurse Practitioner Competencies
2. Life Span Categories
3. Gender
4. Context of Practice
5. Clinical Skill Domains
6. Body Systems, Diseases, Disorders or Conditions

The examination blueprint ensures that the examination measures the same elements each time it is administered and that the proportion of the examination allocated to each of these essential elements remains the same. Attention to these elements ensures that each administration of the examination covers the requirements for entry to nurse practitioner practice.

The examination blueprints for each stream of nurse practitioner practice have been developed in consultation with the educational facilities that offer nurse practitioner education. Each is based on current statistical information relating to population groups, common health presentations and context of practice as it relates to community based or institutionalized based care.

Please Note: The lists provided under each essential element are not necessarily exhaustive and candidates should refer to any noted reference documents for more detailed information. Reference documents are available on either the BCCNM website or by contacting the BCCNM Exam Administrator, RNs and NPs.

EXAMINATION LENGTH AND TYPE

The nurse practitioner (adult) OSCE is a 15-station examination that includes seven to eight 10-minute client interactive stations and seven to eight couplet stations. Each couplet station has a five-minute client interactive component followed by a five-minute written component. Refer to the [*Nurse Practitioner Objective Structured Clinical Examination Candidate Guidebook*](#) for a detailed description of the examination and tips on how to prepare for the examination.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

1. Nurse Practitioner Competencies

The following is a summary of the nurse practitioner competencies that appear on the examination and is based on the competencies as described in the *Competencies Required for Nurse Practitioners in British Columbia*.

Please note: Associated Activities from **Competency 2: Health Assessment and Diagnosis** and **Competency 3: Therapeutic Management** are weighted more heavily in this examination and represent 70 - 90% of the total examination.

1. Professional Role, Responsibility and Accountability
 - Documentation
 - Consult or refer appropriately
2. Health Assessment and Diagnosis
 - Establish and maintain relationship
 - Assess health status including history and physical exams
 - Order and interpret investigations
 - Use the process of diagnostic reasoning to establish differential diagnosis
 - Make a diagnosis
 - Diagnose urgent emergent and life threatening situations
3. Therapeutic Management
 - Explore therapeutic options and develop a plan
 - Recommend and provide evidence – based treatment
 - Initiate treatment to stabilize patient in emergency situation
 - Counsel clients
 - Prescribe medication appropriately, considering the needs of individuals
 - Monitor clients responses to treatment and revise plan of care as needed

4. Health Promotion and Prevention of Illness and Injury

- Offer health and population screening
- Determine health implications for health promotion and prevention
- Provide culturally safe and competent care

2. Life Span Categories

The following information specifies the approximate proportion of the examination related to this element.

	% of Scenarios
Older Adolescent (16-18 years)	6-13%
Adults (19-65 years)	40-47%
Older and Advanced Aged Adult (over 65 years)	40-47%

3. Gender

The following information specifies the approximate proportion of the examination related to this element.

	% of Scenarios
Female	40-60%
Male	40-60%

4. Context of Practice

The examination includes cases pertaining to community based and institutionalized care. Community includes urgent care centres/emergency rooms and does not always mean office settings. Institutionalized care includes acute care and residential care.

5. Clinical Skill Domains

The following information specifies the approximate proportion of the examination related to this element.

The clinical skills assessed on this examination are classified into five domains based on the nature of the clinical interaction being assessed. Some examination stations will involve more than one of these domains.

For a more specific list of the types of clinical skills that are included in each of these domains, please refer to the following reference material:

- *Nurse Practitioner Objective Structured Clinical Examination Candidate Guidebook* (pub. 441)

- *Competencies Required for Nurse Practitioners in British Columbia* (pub.416)
- *Applying the Competencies Required for Nurse Practitioners in British Columbia* (pub. 440)

The following summary represents the approximate frequency that these domains will appear on the examination.

Domain	% of Scenarios
Obtain a brief, focused and relevant history	47-60%
Counsel and provide information	27-40%
Develop management plan	20-40%
Complete a focused and relevant physical examination	27-47%
Diagnose and Manage	40-53%

6. Body Systems, Diseases, Disorders or Conditions

The OSCE may address any body system, disease, disorder or condition that is within the scope of practice of the entry level nurse practitioner (adult). Not all body systems, diseases, disorders or conditions will be covered in every examination. Some complex scenarios may cover more than one of these areas. For examples of diseases, disorders and conditions commonly managed by an entry-level nurse practitioner (adult), refer to Appendix 1 of the [Applying the Competencies](#) document on the BCCNM website.

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