



PRACTICAL EXAM FACT SHEET

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate competency both orally and physically while completing tasks generally considered routine to the profession. This exam is intended for trainees who have completed both the recommended reading and supervised training in all categories. It is recommended that each candidate have the opportunity to be supervised by a licensed Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist, Audiologist with hearing instrument dispensing experience, or Otologist with hearing instrument dispensing experience. The successful candidate will demonstrate appropriate techniques to ensure the consumer is well served.

The Practical Exam has four (4) sections.

A minimum score of 75% is required in each of the four (4) sections to pass the exam.

If one or more sections are failed, the exam may be re-taken up to two times before reapplication is required.

Retake Practical Exams occur only on regularly-scheduled exam dates and only in entirety.

SECTION I

Patient Information and Health Assessment, Case History, Otoscopy, Screening Tympanometry and Referral Protocols*

In this section the candidate will orally demonstrate:

- Use of a client case history to determine when and to whom to refer
- Identification of various diseases of the ear presented in photographs
- Compliance of local, state/provincial and national regulations as they pertain to abnormalities and diseases of the ear
- Various cases of hearing loss and the appropriate management in each case
- Reporting to a physician in an appropriate manner
- Basic understanding of Cochlear Implant referral criteria
- Basic knowledge of the purpose of screening tympanometry and the ability to identify each of the common tympanograms.

*** Candidates are encouraged to bring equipment and materials with which they are familiar, i.e. otoscope and items necessary for demonstrating proper hygiene.**

SECTION II

Pure-Tone Audiometry: Air, Bone, Speech, Masking and Special Considerations*

The candidate must demonstrate competency in the following areas:

- A good working knowledge in the set-up, maintenance and use of audiometric equipment
- Administering pure-tone, bone, and speech audiometry
- Understanding when and how to mask and determining where masking is appropriate for speech testing
- Administering soundfield aided and unaided testing
- Recognizing when test results may not be reliable and what action could be taken for resolution, e.g. malingers and prolapsed ear canals.

***Candidates are encouraged to bring equipment and materials with which they are familiar, i.e. blank audiogram form plus his/her own audiometer. Audiometric equipment should be capable of wide-range air and bone conduction testing, speech audiometry (live or recorded source), masking and soundfield testing.**

SECTION III

*The Hearing Instrument - From Impression Taking to Rehabilitation**

Part A: Human Acoustic Couplers: Earmold Impressions, Retubing and Earmold Styles

The candidate will be required to:

- Take an acceptable earmold impression with appropriate instructions to the client, utilizing industry accepted standards of technique and hygiene.
- Identify what makes a good earmold impression
- Retube an earmold, couple earmold with a BTE aid and fit the instrument on a subject
- Recognize special considerations for deep insertion earmolds impressions
- Identify common earmolds and determine possible use of each.

Part B: Dispensing, Counseling, Trouble Shooting and Rehabilitation

The candidate will demonstrate:

- A complete hearing instrument delivery process
- Counseling on client expectations and limitations of the hearing instruments
- Basic entry-level knowledge in post-fitting trouble-shooting of hearing aids in resolving user complaints, e.g., feedback, occlusion, own voice “sounds funny”, etc. This will include a check-list of things to look for when determining the cause of the problem
- How to counsel the client on the use of amplification
- A basic knowledge of assistive devices and when each would be appropriate, e.g. Infra-red systems, FM systems, loop systems, t-coils, etc.
- Coping strategies that are appropriate for the degree of hearing impairment and/or patient needs in various situations
- Knowledge of local self-help resources in the candidate’s community.

***Candidates are encouraged to bring with them equipment, tools and materials with which they are familiar in order to demonstrate knowledge and skills:**

Otoscope for proper demonstration of ear impression skills including sanitizing, earmold impression and changing earmold tubing, plus hearing instrument(s), accessories and accepted user instruction manual.

SECTION IV

Audiometric Interpretation and Fitting Verification; Audiograms, Electro Acoustic ANSI Read Outs, and Real Ear Measurements

From approved charts, the candidate will be asked to identify the following:

- Various characteristics of audiograms
- Type and degree of hearing loss
- What specific information on the audiograms is inconsistent and what could be considered to resolve incongruencies.
- When masking is necessary, or not
- When hearing aids would be recommended, or not
- When and where to refer client if loss is beyond the scope of traditional hearing aid help, e.g. Self-help groups, Cochlear implant centers
- ANSI specifications and Real Ear Measurement acronyms and how to read and interpret results.