

# North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

## Board Guidelines for Performance of the Ear Impression Technique component of the Practicum portion of the Licensing Examination

### Practicum • Part I: MAKING THE IMPRESSION

- Clean your hands, as well as clean the speculum, earlight tip, and impression syringe/gun tip before inserting into the model's ear.
- Begin instructing the model about the impression making procedure before performing the otoscopic exam.
- Perform a (pre-impression) otoscopic exam, and continuously support the model's head in accordance with Board-approved guidelines.  
**AUTOMATIC FAILURE, IF NO OTOSCOPIC EXAM PERFORMED OR NO LIGHT SOURCE USED.**
- Continuously support the model's head while inserting the otoblock/cotton block, in accordance with Board-approved guidelines.  
**AUTOMATIC FAILURE, IF NO LIGHT SOURCE USED OR NO BLOCK INSERTED BEFORE STARTING TO INSERT MATERIAL.**
- Continuously support the model's head while inserting the impression material, in accordance with Board-approved guidelines.

### Practicum • Part 2: REMOVAL OF THE IMPRESSION AND FOLLOW-UP

- Visibly determine that the impression material is ready to be removed.
- Begin instructing the model about the removal procedure before breaking the seal between the material and the ear.
- Break the seal between the impression material and the outer ear before removing the entire impression and otoblock/cotton block.  
**AUTOMATIC FAILURE, IF SEAL NOT BROKEN BEFORE STARTING TO REMOVE IMPRESSION.**
- Perform a (post-impression) otoscopic exam, and continuously support the model's head in accordance with Board-approved guidelines.\*
- Inspect the impression for accuracy.\*

**\*Inspection of impression may precede post-impression otoscopic.**