



North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

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Board Policy Concerning Use of Models for the Ear Impression Technique Component of the Practicum Portion of the Licensing Examination

Policy Updated October 2016

- The Registered Applicant shall be responsible for providing a live adult model for the practicum portion of the examination (Part B).
- The model shall be over 18 years of age, and have none of the following contraindications: PE tubes in either tympanic membrane; a history of ear surgery within five years of the date of the examination; active drainage from either ear; knowledge of a perforation in either tympanic membrane; or ear canal blockage.
- The model may not be an apprentice or an exam applicant who has not successfully passed Part B in a previous exam.
- The model may not be used to practice making a hearing aid impression for at least 2 days before the exam.
- The exam coordinator shall clear the live model's ear prior to beginning the practicum exam. If the model is under 18 years of age or is found to have any of the contraindications listed above, the Registered Applicant shall not be allowed to demonstrate the ear impression on the model and shall fail Part B of the exam.
- Two trained raters shall independently observe and record the actions of the Registered Applicant demonstrating the Board-approved procedures for making/removing the ear impression using the live model. The Registered Applicant shall be allowed to make only one ear impression. The procedure shall be electronically recorded. The recording shall be reviewed for scoring purposes if there is a discrepancy between the scores of the two raters.
- A separate admission card will be sent to the Applicant to give to the model which has the Applicant's exam ID number. Each model shall present the card when checking in for the exam. A 2-hour appointment window will be provided for each practicum exam to minimize the time a model will have to wait. If Applicants are sharing a model (maximum two applicants per model), please notify the Board office so that appointment times can be coordinated.
- The Practicum exam date is published on the Notice of Exam.