



NATIONAL NAIL TECHNICIAN (MANICURIST)
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

Please visit www.nictesting.org for the most current bulletin prior to testing.

This bulletin contains important information regarding the NIC National Nail Technician (Manicurist) Practical Examination content and administration. Please review all information carefully.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not leave the examination area without permission. Permission must be obtained to leave the examination area for any reason, including restroom usage or at the completion of the examination.
- Candidates are required to bring their own kit with sufficient quantity of supplies in sanitary condition. This includes the required implements in proper working order and protective drapes. The kit must be kept closed except when removing or replacing materials for a particular service. The kit will be used during the examination as dry storage and is considered part of the work area.
- All examinations are administered in a testing environment. Candidates should bring a container of water if needed for any section of the examination. Candidates may bring a thermos of hot water if desired. All water and their containers must be taken with the candidates and may not be disposed of at the testing facility.
- Candidates are evaluated at all times. Continue demonstrating until you have completed the entire section.
- Candidates will be given 10 minutes for client protection and to set up the general supplies that they will use throughout the examination. Candidates will also set up the supplies for the basic manicure section of this examination.
- Candidates will also be given 2 minutes to set up the supplies for each section of the examination.
- The verbal instructions will be read twice for each section of the examination. Each examination section has a maximum time allowance. Once you have completed all tasks in the section please turn the hand toward the examiner to indicate that you are finished. In the event that all candidates complete the section before the time has elapsed the examiners will proceed to the next section of the examination.
- Candidates must follow all appropriate public protection and infection control procedures during all phases of the practical examination that will ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public. In the event of a blood spill candidates will be expected to follow the NIC Health and Safety Standards. Failure to do so may result in your dismissal from the examination.
- Cellular phones, pagers, any electronic device, printed materials, and handwritten notes are NOT permitted in the examination room. Talking to other candidates or any examiner is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply with any of these conditions will result in you being dismissed immediately, and your actions reported to the proper authorities. Your examiner has been instructed not to answer any questions concerning your examination. This ensures equal opportunity for all candidates and standardization in testing for the National Practical Examination. If you have an emergency situation please ask to speak with the supervisor.

- Manufacturer's labels are required on all disinfectants and sanitizers. An EPA registered disinfectant that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used. Simulated products are NOT allowed for disinfectants and hand sanitizers.

MODEL OR MANNEQUIN(S)

Depending on the state, candidates will either use a live model or a mannequin hand(s) for the examination.

*** Please refer to State guidelines.**

***If your state permits a live model:**

Models must be at least 15 years of age and cannot be licensed or a student studying in this field. Models must be present with the candidate at the beginning of the practical examination. The model must present a valid driver's license or State ID card for admittance to the examination. The model must be appropriate for examination purposes. The model must agree to submit to all services in the practical examination. Models may not participate in any way during the examination. Models are not permitted to talk to the candidate or examiners at any time during the examination.

***If your state permits a mannequin hand(s):**

Candidates are required to bring a mannequin hand(s) for the practical examination. Mannequin hands with digital fingers (trainer hands) are NOT permitted during the examinations. Prior to reporting to the examination candidates MUST apply a set of nails to the mannequin hand. The artificial nails must cover the entire nail bed of each finger.

**NAIL TECHNICIAN (MANICURIST)
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION
CONTENT SECTIONS**

The scope of the National Nail Technician (Manicurist) Practical Examination includes 6 core domain services. The core domain services are based on the national job analysis. The core domain services are as follows:

Core Domain Services

- Set Up and Client Protection
- Manicure
- Nail Tip
- Nail Wrap
- Sculptured Nail
- Polish

SET UP AND CLIENT PROTECTION
(10 minutes)

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now set up the general supplies that you will use throughout your examination.”

“You will also set up the manicure supplies.”

“You will be observed for client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“Upon completion of each section of this examination, please turn the hand toward the examiner to indicate that you are finished.”

“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin set up.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- Disinfects work area or uses protective covering
- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Sanitizes hands
- Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout setup
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout setup

MANICURE
(20 minutes)

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the manicure section of this examination.”

“You will be expected to follow all safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sanitizes hands
- Sanitizes hand to be manicured

Demonstration of Filing

- Shapes free edge safely
- Establishes uniform length and shape

Demonstration of Cuticle Care

- Immerses fingers in bowl of water
- Dries hand completely
- Applies cuticle cream or remover using infection control procedures
- Pushes back cuticle safely
- Cleans under free edge safely
- Buffs nail safely
- Applies cuticle oil using infection control procedures

Demonstration of Hand Massage

- Applies massage product using infection control procedures
- Massages palm, back of hand, and fingers
- Maintains continuous contact while massaging hand
- Cleanses massage product from each nail plate

Safety and Infection Control

- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

NAIL TIP
(20 minutes)

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

“You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the nail tip section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up.”

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the nail tip section of this examination.”

“You will apply a nail tip to the ring finger.”

“You will be observed for client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up nail tip supplies labeled in English
- Removes shine from nail plate safely
- Removes dust from nail plate and cuticle
- Selects a nail tip that matches width of nail plate

Application of Nail Tip

- Applies nail dehydrator/cleanser to nail plate
- Attaches nail tip to nail plate with nail adhesive
- At least ½ of nail plate remains uncovered
- Trims nail tip safely

Demonstration of Filing/Blending

- Shapes free edge safely
- Tip is blended to nail plate safely

Final Appearance of Nail

- Cuticle and skin surrounding nail are free from nail adhesive
- Hyponychium is free from nail adhesive
- Finished nail is smooth and even

Safety and Infection Control

- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

NAIL WRAP
(20 minutes)

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

“You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the nail wrap section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up.”

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the nail wrap section of this examination.”

“You will apply a wrap to the middle finger.”

“You will be observed for client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up nail wrap supplies labeled in English
- Removes shine from nail plate safely
- Removes dust from nail plate and cuticle
- Applies nail dehydrator/cleanser to nail plate

Application of Nail Wrap Product

- Applies nail adhesive to nail plate
- Applies wrap material over nail plate
- Removes excess wrap material to fit nail plate safely
- Applies nail adhesive over nail wrap
- Applies wrap accelerator safely
- Applies second coat of nail adhesive
- Applies second coat of wrap accelerator safely

Demonstration of Filing

- Files nail wrap safely
- Buffs nail wrap safely

Final Appearance of Nail Wrap

- Nail plate is covered by wrap
- Cuticle and surrounding skin remains free of nail adhesive
- Finished nail wrap is smooth and even

Safety and Infection Control

- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

SCULPTURED NAIL
(20 minutes)

NIC strongly recommends, due to the testing environment, that odorless sculptured nail products be used during the NIC practical examinations.

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the sculptured nail section of this examination.” Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up.”

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the sculptured nail section of this examination, using an odorless product.”

“You will apply a sculptured nail to the index finger.”

“You will be observed for client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up sculptured nail supplies labeled in English
- Removes shine from nail plate safely
- Cleanses nail plate and cuticle of dust

Application of Sculptured Nail Product

- Applies nail form to fit snugly under free edge
- Applies primer safely
- Applies sculptured product to extend free edge
- Applies sculptured product to cover nail plate

Demonstration of Filing

- Shapes free edge safely
- Files sculptured nail to shape/balance safely
- Buffs sculptured nail safely

Final Appearance of Nail

- Finished sculptured nail is smooth, even, and beveled/tapered
- Contour of sculptured nail is balanced
- Nail plate is covered by sculptured nail product
- Cuticle and surrounding skin remains free of sculptured nail product

Safety and Infection Control

- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

POLISH
(10 minutes)

Verbal Instructions for Set-Up:

“You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the polish section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set-up.”

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the polish section of this examination.”

“You will polish all 5 nails.”

“You will be observed for client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up polish supplies labeled in English

Application of Polish

- Applies base coat to cover nail plate
- Applies red polish to cover nail plate
- Applies top coat to cover nail plate

Final Appearance of Nails

- Final appearance of polish is smooth and even
- Cuticle and surrounding skin remain free of polish

Safety and Infection Control

- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

**CANDIDATE SUMMARY
AND FINAL CLEANUP**

Verbal Instructions:

“This concludes the national practical examination. Please make sure that all kit supplies and disposable materials are taken with you. Please do not dispose of waste materials, chemicals, or water in the trash receptacles or restrooms as they are unable to accommodate all waste materials from every candidate that takes the examination.”

RECOMMENDED GENERAL SUPPLIES

ALL SUPPLIES MUST BE LABELED IN ENGLISH

*** Please refer to State guidelines**

- dry storage kit/container*
- hand sanitizer
- mannequin hand(s) with artificial nails attached (trainer hands are NOT permitted)*
- EPA registered disinfectant that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used*
- disposal bag for waste materials
- cloth and paper towel(s)
- cotton
- first aid supplies (blood spill kit)
- tape

BASIC MANICURE SUPPLIES

- bowl and container of water
- cuticle cream/remover
- filing and buffing implements
- cuticle pusher
- nail brush
- hand lotion or massage product
- cuticle oil

NAIL TIP AND NAIL WRAP SUPPLIES

- cuticle pusher
- nail tips and adhesive
- nail wrap material (non pre-cut fabric)
- filing and buffing implements
- scissors
- accelerator

SCULPTURED NAIL SUPPLIES

- cuticle pusher
- sculptured nail products (powder, primer, liquid) (The product must be in its original container with the manufacturer's label. NIC strongly recommends, due to the testing environment, that odorless sculptured nail products be used during the NIC practical examinations.)
- sculptured nail brush
- liquid & powder containers
- filing and buffing implements
- sculptured nail forms

POLISH SUPPLIES

- polish remover
- base coat/top coat
- red polish

NAIL TECHNICIAN REFERENCES

Milady's Standard Nail Technology, 2007 (Revised)

Milady
5 Maxwell Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(800) 347-7707
www.Milady.com

Salon Fundamentals, Nail Technician, 2007

Pivot Point International, Inc.
Evanston, IL 60201
(800) 886-4247
www.pivot-point.com

OPTIONAL REFERENCES

Milady's Standard Textbook of Cosmetology, 2008

Milady
5 Maxwell Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(800) 730-2214
www.Milady.com

Salon Fundamentals, Cosmetology, 2007

Pivot Point International, Inc.
Evanston, IL 60201
(800) 886-4247
www.pivot-point.com

NIC Health and Safety Standards

NIC, Inc., October 2002

www.nicesting.org

NIC HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS BLOOD SPILL PROCEDURE

If a blood spill should occur, the following steps **MUST** be followed:

- **SUPPLY INJURED PARTY WITH LIQUID STYPTIC/ANTISEPTIC AND THE APPROPRIATE DRESSING TO COVER THE INJURY.**
- **DOUBLE BAG ALL BLOOD-SOILED (CONTAMINATED) ARTICLES AND LABEL WITH RED OR ORANGE BIOHAZARD WARNING.** This is the responsibility of the candidate and should be executed as follows:

CANDIDATE INJURY – FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSES

1. **PROTECTION** – If a cut is sustained, stop the service and clean the injured area.
2. **APPLY** antiseptic and/or liquid or spray styptic as appropriate (see NOTE).
3. **DRESSING** - cover the injury with the appropriate dressing.
4. **COVER** injured area with finger guard or glove as appropriate.
5. **CLEAN** model/client and station as appropriate.
6. **DOUBLE BAG** and dispose of all contaminated objects. Clean hands with antimicrobial cleanser.
7. **RETURN** to service.

MODEL INJURY – FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSES

1. **STOP** service.
2. **GLOVE** hands of candidate/student/licensee.
3. **CLEAN** injured area as appropriate.
4. **APPLY** antiseptic and/or liquid or spray styptic as appropriate (see NOTE).
5. **COVER** the injury with the appropriate dressing to prevent further blood exposure.
6. **DOUBLE BAG** and dispose of all contaminated objects. Clean hands with antimicrobial cleanser.
7. **RETURN** to service.

EXAMINERS:

- **EXAMINER IS TO USE UNUSED DISPOSABLE LATEX GLOVES OR NON-ALLERGENIC EQUIVALENT WHEN CHECKING THAT CANDIDATE'S SERVICE. DOUBLE BAG AND DISPOSE USED GLOVES.**
- **FOLLOW WITH ANTIMICROBIAL SCRUB ON HANDS.**
- **DOCUMENT INCIDENT IN BLOOD SPILL LOG.**

NOTE: DO NOT ALLOW CONTAINERS, BRUSHES, NOZZLES OR LIQUID STYPTIC TO TOUCH THE SKIN OR CONTACT THE WOUND. USE AN APPLICATOR. EXAMINERS SHOULD ALSO COMPLETE AN INCIDENT REPORT.

WET DISINFECTION STANDARD

- 1** All tools and implements, **EXCEPT THOSE THAT HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS** must be disinfected, at minimum, by complete immersion in an EPA registered, *bactericidal, virucidal, fungicidal, and pseudomonacidal (Formulated for Hospitals)* disinfectant that is mixed and used according to the manufacturer's directions.
- 2** All tools and implements **WHICH HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS** must be disinfected, at minimum, by complete immersion in an EPA registered disinfectant that is effective *against HIV-1 and human Hepatitis B Virus or Tuberculocidal* that is mixed and used according to the manufacturer's directions.

DRY STORAGE STANDARD

Disinfected implements must be stored in a disinfected, dry, covered container and be isolated from contaminants.

HAND WASHING

(Anti-Bacterial Soap is recommended)

Thoroughly wash hands and the exposed portions of arms with antibacterial soap and water before providing services to **each client** and after smoking, drinking, eating, and using the restroom.

NAIL TECHNOLOGY

Practical Examinations

Liquid containing *Methyl Methacrylate (MMA)* is **prohibited** for use during NIC practical examinations. NIC strongly recommends, due to the testing environment, that odorless sculptured nail products be used during the NIC practical examinations.

Adopted as amended October 2002

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