



**NATIONAL *BODY PIERCING*  
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION**

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)**

**EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please visit your official examination provider website OR [www.nictesting.org](http://www.nictesting.org), for the most current bulletin prior to testing.*

**National Body Piercing Practical Examination is the licensure examination for Body Piercing, which is developed by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC). This bulletin contains IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the NIC National Body Piercing Practical Examination content and administration for Body Piercing core sections.**

For each NIC National Practical Examination, there are TWO (2) parts to every Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) stored as separate documents:

- ***Examination Content*** and ***Important Instructions*** – This provides information about the scope of content covered in the Practical examination and information and guidelines related to administration of the Practical examination.
- ***References*** – This provides a list of references used to develop and support the content covered in NIC examinations.

The references will always be the same for both Theory and Practical examinations.

**BE CERTAIN TO DOWNLOAD AND/OR PRINT AND REVIEW BOTH DOCUMENTS THAT MAKE UP THE NIC EXAMINATION CIB.**

**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.
- **Picture ID is required for re-entry into the examination.**
- Candidates are required to bring a supply kit for their own use.
  - It is the candidate's responsibility to make certain they have a sufficient quantity of supplies that have been properly cleaned and disinfected, and implements are in proper working order and sterile as necessary.
  - The kit will be used during the examination as dry storage and is considered part of the work area. The kit must be kept closed (e.g., completely zipped or lid tightly closed) except when removing materials for a particular service.
  - Candidates may remove items, supplies, etc., from the kit at any time, however nothing may be returned to the kit.
  - All examinations are administered in a testing environment.
  - Candidates are evaluated at all times. Continue working until you have completed the entire section or time has elapsed.

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- Due to standardization of the NIC National Examinations. Proctors and examiners are required to adhere to the following standards:
    - The verbal instructions will be read twice for each section of the examination.
    - With the exception of verbal instructions, the proctors are not allowed to communicate with candidates.
    - Examiners are not allowed to speak with candidates.
  - Candidates requesting information during the examination will be told one of the following statements:
    - “Do the best you can with what you have available.”
    - “Do as you were taught.”
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    - If a candidate experiences an emergency situation, please notify the proctor by raising your hand.
  - Candidates will be given time to set up the universal (also known as general) supplies they will use throughout the examination.
    - Each section of the examination has a maximum time allowance, with the exception of those specified as untimed sections.
    - Once the candidate has completed all tasks in the section, please step back or raise your hand to indicate you have finished.
    - In the event that the candidate completes a section before the time has elapsed, the examiner will proceed to the next section of the examination.
    - When the timer goes off, the candidate must stop working and step back IMMEDIATELY.
  - During all phases of the examination, candidates must follow all appropriate public protection and infection control procedures and maintain a safe work area.
    - In the event of a blood exposure incident, candidates will be expected to follow the NIC Blood Exposure Procedure.
- Failure to do so may result in your dismissal from the examination.**
- *Be sure to contact your examination provider to obtain the most current version of, and any addendums, to the NIC Blood Exposure Procedure, OR go to [www.nicesting.org](http://www.nicesting.org) for a current downloadable copy.*
  - **If a candidate does not follow infection control procedures or allows the work area to become and remain unsafe, the result may be a failing score for the examination.**
- The following provides examples of materials and actions that are prohibited during the examination administration:
  - Possession of cellular phones, pagers, tablets, computers, projectors, cameras, or any other electronic or recording devices, printed materials, or handwritten notes.
  - Purses, bags, coats, hats, and any other personal items not directly needed to complete the examination, are not allowed.
  - Exhibiting disruptive behavior.
  - Communicating to other candidates or any examiner.
    - *The above referenced items or actions are not an exhaustive list. Failure to comply with any of these conditions or exhibiting ANY behavior that suggests an effort to cheat will result in the immediate dismissal from the examination*

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*and the candidate's actions reported to the proper authorities.*

- **All supplies must be labeled in English.** When an original manufacturer's label is required, there can be NO handwritten or any other type of labeling. Original manufacturer's labels must have English and may also include other languages. All non-manufacturers created labels must be only in English.
  - Original manufacturer's labels are *required* for all disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
  - An EPA-registered (hospital) disinfectant. Please refer to the "*Suggested Examination Supplies*" section to see any further state specific requirements for supplies and products.
  - Simulated products are *not* allowed for disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
  - **NO AEROSOLS** are allowed in the testing environment
  - Candidates are to perform all tasks, utilizing products and supplies, as they were taught. There is however, a section titled "*Suggested Examination Supplies*" provided following the "Content Domains" section of this bulletin for items that a candidate may *possibly* utilize in a section.

### **SPECIAL ATTENTION**

The following information is vital and specific to the  
NIC National Body Piercing Practical Examination:

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- Candidates will be evaluated on proper designation of materials that are disposed. Candidates are ***required*** to bring and use the following supplies for the appropriate disposal of materials:
  - Container labeled "**To be disinfected/sterilized**"
  - Container labeled "**Sharps**" (OSHA Approved)
  - Container labeled "**Trash**"
- Disinfectant must be real product with manufacturer's label
- A hand washing station will be identified at the testing location
- Model must be free of nostril piercings
- 2 tables and 1 chair will be provided at the test site
  - You may arrange the furniture as necessary
- Simulated piercing procedure will be performed with the model in a seated position.

## **BODY PIERCING PRACTICAL EXAMINATION CONTENT DOMAIN SECTIONS**

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The scope of the National Body Piercing Practical Examination includes 5 (five) core domain sections. The Core Domain Sections are based on the national job analysis.

1. **Work Area Set Up (20 minutes)**
2. **Skin Preparation and Marking (10 minutes)**
3. **Simulated Nostril Piercing Procedure and Conclusion (Untimed)**
4. **Breakdown and New Client Set Up (15 minutes)**

**1. WORK AREA SET UP (20 minutes)**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate:

*“You will imagine the following scenario: You are starting work at a new studio. You have been assigned a work station that contains two tables and one chair. You are responsible for unpacking your supplies and setting up the work station. You will begin seeing clients as soon as your work station is prepared.”*

*“You will prepare yourself for a nostril piercing procedure”.*

*“You will prepare your work surface(s) and work area(s) for your first client.”*

*“You will unpack and set up the supplies and equipment you will use throughout the examination.”*

*“You may arrange the furniture to meet your needs.”*

*“The examiner will ask you to present your packaged jewelry and needle for inspection.”*

*“Do not open packaged tools, body jewelry, or needle at this time.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all 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.”*

*“Do not demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Raise your hand to indicate you have finished.”*

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**1.1 Prepare yourself for a nostril piercing procedure**

**1.2 Prepares work station and disinfects procedure surface(s)**

**1.3 Prepares tools and supplies for a nostril piercing procedure**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if candidate has raised their hand to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“The candidate has indicated they have completed this section of the examination.”*

*“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before the candidate has indicated they have completed this section of the examination:

*“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate:

*“Please present your jewelry.”*

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*“Please show the other side of the package.”*

*“Please present your needle.”*

*“Please show the other side of the package.”*

### **1.4 Presents items for a nostril piercing procedure**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate

*“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

### **1.5 Disposes of all contaminated supplies**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read when examiner has indicated they are ready to proceed:

*“The examiner has indicated they are ready to proceed. The model may be seated at this time.”*

**2. SKIN PREPARATION AND MARKING (10 Minutes)**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate:

*“You will demonstrate skin preparation and marking of the piercing area.”*

*“The model should be in place at this time.”*

*“You may open your supplies and tools as needed.”*

*“Do not demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all 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”*

*“Raise your hand to indicate you have finished.”*

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**2.1 Prepares client for piercing**

**2.2 Disposes of all contaminated supplies**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if candidate has raised their hand to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“The candidate has indicated they have completed this section of the examination.”*

*“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before the candidate has indicated they have completed this section of the examination:

*“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**3. SIMULATED NOSTRIL PIERCING PROCEDURE AND CONCLUSION  
(Untimed)**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate:

*“You will demonstrate a simulated nostril piercing.”*

*“You will use a tool to support the tissue.”*

*“Do not touch the needle to the model.”*

*“You will be instructed by the examiner to demonstrate a simulated nostril piercing procedure.”*

*“You will be instructed by the examiner to recover from jewelry being dropped on the floor.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“This is an untimed section.”*

*“Do not demonstrate any procedure until the examiner instructs you to do so.”*

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

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate:

*“Please simulate a nostril piercing including jewelry insertion.”*

**3.1 Demonstrates simulated procedure for nostril piercing**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate once they've simulated the piercing and prior to removing their gloves:

*“Please stop. Demonstrate how the procedure would be completed if the jewelry had been dropped on the floor during the piercing.”*

**3.2 Continues procedure following dropped jewelry**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate after installation of new body jewelry has been observed:

*“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**3.3 Disposes of all contaminated supplies**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate:

*“The examiner has indicated they are ready to proceed. The model is excused at this time.”*

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### 4. BREAKDOWN AND NEW CLIENT SET UP (15 minutes)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate:

*“You will now break down your work station and dispose of supplies used in the previous sections of this examination.”*

*“You will prepare the procedure surface(s) for a nostril piercing procedure for a NEW client.”*

*“Do not open packaged tools, body jewelry, or needle at this time.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 8 minutes remaining.”*

*“Do not demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Raise your hand to indicate you have finished.”*

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**4.1 Breaks down work station and disinfects procedure surface(s)**

**4.2 Prepare yourself for a nostril piercing procedure**

**4.3 Prepares items for a nostril piercing procedure**

**4.4 Disposes of all contaminated supplies**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if candidate has raised their hand to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“The candidate has indicated they have completed this section of the examination.”*

*“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before the candidate has indicated they have completed this section:

*“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

### CANDIDATE CLEANUP AND FINAL SUMMARY

**Proctor - Verbal Instructions:** Read to the candidate at the conclusion of the examination:

*“The examiner has indicated they have completed their assessment.”*

*“Make sure that all kit supplies and disposable materials are taken with you.”*

*“This concludes the National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, National Body Piercing Practical Examination.”*

*“Thank you for your participation.”*



***SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES***

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**Suggested supply list:**

- This is a list of suggested supplies for the practical examination.
- Candidates are responsible for bringing all needed materials, even if not included on this list.

**Information related to labeling of supplies:**

- ALL supplies must be labeled in English
- No other languages can be present unless an original manufacturer's label is present
- Original manufacturer's labels MUST have English and may be multi-language
- All other created labels must be only English

**Special Instructions**

- Any container that holds sterilized items should be treated as a drawer or cabinet in the work place.
- Disinfectant must be real product with manufacturer's label
- A hand washing station will be identified at the testing location
- Model must be free of nostril piercings
- 2 tables and 1 chair will be provided at the test site
  - You may arrange the furniture as necessary
- Simulated piercing procedures will be performed with the model in a seated position.

**Examination Universal/General Supplies**

- candidate supply container(s) to serve as storage areas (*must be closeable*)
- EPA-registered (hospital) disinfectant with manufacturer's label
- Sharps container (OSHA-approved) (new and unused)
- container labeled "to be disinfected/processed"
- container labeled "trash"
- trash bags/liners
- box of single-use, disposable gloves (medical-grade)
- barriers
- antiseptic skin cleanser
- marking implements
- jewelry for nostril piercings (packaged and sterile)
- needles for nostril piercings (packaged and sterile)
- insertion tapers for nostril piercings (packaged and sterile)
- implements for nostril piercings (packaged and sterile)
- tools to support tissue during simulated piercing procedures (e.g., forceps, receiving tube, etc.)
- prep packs or items used for skin prep (packaged and sterile)