Part III Blueprint

The Part III Examination is mandated by Regulation of the Commissioner §63.3.

The goal of the examination is to assess competence in prescription compounding and pharmacy practice. This includes:

a. sterile product preparation and technique;
b. non-sterile compounding preparation and technique;
c. performing dosing calculations, including but not limited to aliquot, proportions, and infusion drip-rates;
d. medication safety procedures, including, but not limited to, identifying potential look-alike and sound-alike drugs and other medication error prevention techniques;
e. drug distribution, including but not limited to preparing, dispensing and verifying the accuracy of filled prescriptions or medication orders; and such other competencies in pharmacy practice as may be required by the department.

Exam Description

The exam is administered over 2 days. Day 1 accounts for 40% of the final grade, is solely written, and consists of open-ended, short-answer questions as follows:

Look-alike, sound-alike medications (LASA) (8%). Candidates are provided with 8 pairs of LASA medications and required to indicate, with a number corresponding to 1 of 99 medication indications, the indication for each pair. Each pair is worth 1 point – no partial credit is given. Candidate must get both medications correct in order to receive credit.

Patient profiles (12%). Candidates are provided with 3 different patient profiles (4% each) that contain a corresponding prescription order or set of orders. Candidates are required to indicate if an issue exists (with its description) that would prohibit a pharmacist from processing the order(s) as written. Candidates are also required to make a recommendation on how to rectify the issue. Knowledge examined with this portion of the exam include identification of medication contraindications, drug interactions, indications, and adverse events.

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Errors and Omissions (20%). Candidates are provided with 10 prescription scenarios that each contains the prescription order, label, and photo of the product chosen to fulfill the order. Candidates are expected to indicate whether the prescription can be dispensed as prepared, or if an error or omission exists that would prohibit a pharmacist from dispensing the medication as prepared. They must identify the issue if the prescription cannot be dispensed as prepared. Knowledge examined with this portion includes medication indications, appropriate dosing and instructions, legal requirements for prescription and labeling, scope of practice, and generic substitution requirements.

Day 2 accounts for 60% of the final grade and is comprised of 3 questions (20% each) the following:

Compounding – candidates are expected to perform calculations necessary to accurately prepare one sterile IV solution and 2 non-sterile compounds for administration to a patient. Candidates will demonstrate aseptic technique (1 proctor for 1 candidate), and non-sterile compounding skills (1 proctor for 4-5 candidates) and be expected to label their product for administration to a patient. Question breakdown for each compound is as follows: 10% for calculations and medication questions, 7% for final product, 3% for label.

*Note – If at any time an answer is provided or a product is prepared in such a way that dispensing it as such could cause significant harm or death to a patient, the candidate will NOT receive any credit for that portion of the exam.

Blueprint for Content Domains

1. Prescription Compounding – 60%

1a. Calculations and product knowledge

Candidates are expected to:

- Perform accurate calculations necessary for compounding prescriptions. This includes (but is not limited to) calculations necessary for dosing medications, determining infusion rates, determination of amount of active ingredients and recipients, aliquots, and weights and measures.
- Identify medications by pharmacological class, indication, use or common names.
- Demonstrate knowledge of dispensing and counseling requirements for medications.
- Demonstrate knowledge of USP <795>, <797>, and <800>.

1b. Product preparation (21%)

Candidates are expected to:

- Prepare a final product that is accurate, pharmaceutically elegant, and safe to be administered to a patient.

1c. Label Preparation (9%)

Candidate is expected to:

- Prepare product labels that are legible, accurate, meet all NYS regulations, and are appropriate to be provided to a patient.
    - Effective January 2015, metric measurements (i.e "5 ml" rather than the term "teaspoon") will be required when preparing labels for oral liquid medication
    - Effective January 2015, prescription labels for ***all*** compounded products will be required to contain the active ingredients used in the preparation of those products

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2. Pharmacy Practice - 40%

2A. Indications/uses of Look Alike Sound Alike medications (8%)

Candidate is expected to:

- *Accurately identify 1 indication/ accepted use of a medication known to be a LASA.*

2B. Pharmacy profile review /maintenance – (12%)

Candidate is expected to:

- Perform a drug-therapy review for a prescription order or set of orders for clinical accuracy and appropriateness.
- Eloquently describe the results of the drug therapy review
- Provide a plan for addressing and rectifying the issue to ensure the patient receives proper care.

2C. Safe and Accurate Prescription Dispensing- (20%)

Candidate is expected to:

- Identify and describe errors or omissions in the prescription order, on the label for dispensing, or with the product chosen to fulfill the prescription.
- Identify errors or omissions relative to the legal requirements for dispensing according to NYS rules and regulations.
- Identify errors in the clinical application of prescription orders that may include (but is not limited to) improper indication, contraindication, or incorrect directions for use.