

Wisconsin Chiropractic Licensing Practical Examination

Candidate Guide

The following is important information related to Chiropractic Examining Board's Wisconsin's practical chiropractic exam. Please read each item carefully.

The exam will take place over two days. Should you have the need, please be sure to make arrangements for overnight accommodations well in advance of the exam date. The examinations taking place on Thursday will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located at 4402 East Washington Avenue, Madison WI; 608-244-4703.

What to Bring

- Photo Identification
- 3 - #2 pencils
- A reflex hammer
- Pinwheel
- Goniometer
- Stethoscope
- Blood pressure cuff

Attire

You should wear clothing suitable for a professional in a chiropractic office setting.

Proper Identification

It is necessary for every individual taking the exam to be properly identified. **Please bring photo identification with you to the exam such as a state driver's license or a student picture ID.** Please be sure to bring your identification to each day of the exam as you will need to supply photo ID every time you enter an exam area.

Check In

When you arrive at the exam site, proceed directly to the check in area. Electronic devices of any kind, and personal notes or other loose paper are not allowed at the exam. As part of the check in process, you will be reminded that these items are not allowed and asked to remove them from the examination area. If you do not remove them, they will be taken from you by department staff. We cannot be responsible for the security of these items during the testing period and we encourage you not to bring them into the exam area.

After your photo identification has been verified, you will be issued a sheet of labels with your name and unique identification number. You will also be given your exam schedule and room assignments. Please keep these with you at all times as they will be used throughout the day to identify your test materials.

After your check-in has been completed, you will stay in the waiting room which will be used anytime you are not taking a portion of the exam. You may bring reading material, such as magazines and novels, with you to the waiting room. You may be returned to this area between testing sessions. The waiting room is a “quiet zone.” Any discussion of exam sections or scenarios you may have completed is strictly prohibited and could result in your termination from further exam participation.

Practical Exam Sections

There are three sections to the practical exam.

Clinical Scenarios – You must complete three separate clinical scenarios. The time allotted for each scenario is **30 minutes**. The exam clock begins when you have been given the data for the clinical scenario. Each scenario will occur in a different area. You will be directed when and how to proceed to each exam area. The clock begins anew when you are given the clinical data for the next scenario.

For the clinical scenario section of the exam, you will enter a room in which there will be three individuals, one will be a mock patient whom you will be examining, and the other two will be the examiners. When you enter the room, you will give each of the examiners one of your labels which will be affixed to your score sheet. You will be given blank paper on which you may, if you choose, make notes of the data provided to you. *All* notations you make during the exam process for each scenario *must* be handed into the examiner before leaving the room, or you will be failed for that scenario. Before the exam begins, an examiner will read candidate instructions aloud and provide direction to begin the exam.

Examiners may approach the candidate during the adjustment demonstration to assess for proper set-up and positioning. It may be necessary for the examiners to occasionally leave their seats to better observe the exam procedures.

The scoring for the clinical scenarios is:

Scoring Template for Clinical Scenario

History	30%
Physical Exam	30%
Recommendations for Imaging	5%
Assessment/Diagnosis	15%
Informed Consent	5%
Treatment Plan & Demonstration	<u>15%</u>
Total	100%

You will be provided with the chief complaint of the subject/patient. You are expected to:

- Obtain a complete comprehensive patient history
- Conduct a thorough patient exam consistent with the data that is provided to you
- State which imaging you would take or refer and provide the clinical justification for each view or study. If you decide not to take any x-rays or determine there is no need for imaging referral, provide the clinical justification for that decision.
- State your assessment/diagnosis of the patient's condition
- Obtain the patient's informed consent
- State the treatment plan and any additional aspects of the treatment plan including any physiologic therapeutics you would recommend to the patient and/or information related to duration/frequency of treatment, instructions for home, work, and recreation, and potential referrals.
- You will be provided the details of a segmental malposition. You are then to set up as if you were going to render the prescribed adjustment utilizing a core curriculum technique as taught by any accredited chiropractic college, The examiner will then observe and score your set up, including:
 - Doctor position
 - Patient position
 - Segmental contact point
- You then must verbalize to the examiner your:
 - Chosen technique
 - Segmental contact point
 - Tissue pull
 - Line of correction

***No adjustment will be given**

Other than the normal social greeting, please do not take any time to socialize with the subject/patient. Neither the examiner nor the subject/patient will communicate with you except:

- To provide you with data related to your examination;
- When it is necessary to ask you to pause so that scores may be entered; and
- To announce the time remaining in any particular portion of the exam; you will be notified when there are five (5) minutes remaining in that portion of the exam.

You should proceed through the clinical scenario just as you would in a normal practice setting. You may conduct the history and exam in any order you choose. When you finish one portion of the scenario, you should immediately proceed to the next item until the scenario is completed; you will not be prompted by the examiner or the subject/patient to move onto the next portion of the scenario.

When you ask the subject/patient a question, you will be provided with data and/or observe a response. **When you perform an orthopedic or neurological test, you must announce the name of the test to the examiner and, at the conclusion of the test, you will be given data by the subject/patient.** If you ask the subject/patient for information which is not relevant to this clinical scenario, the subject/patient will respond “normal.” If you attempt to engage the examiner or subject/patient in conversation not related to the exam, there will be no response.

Once you have completed your scenario, you will inform the examiners that you are finished, hand the examiners all notes taken during the scenario, and exit to the hallway. Please do not attempt to ask the examiner or the subject/patient how you performed as you will not receive a response.

The following is a brief explanation of what each examination section will include:

HISTORY: Candidate is expected to obtain all information that would be expected of a chiropractor to obtain during a new patient’s initial visit. **Scoring of this section is based on the verbal exchange of the candidate and the subject.**

PHYSICAL EXAM: Candidate is expected to verbalize and demonstrate all testing that would be appropriate to perform based upon the chief complaint and other information supplied by the subject. Scoring is determined by evaluating what tests are chosen to be performed (and verbally explained) by the candidate, as well as evaluating the performance of the tests that are chosen. The candidate does not need to explain their performance of the test. The examiners are expected to know if the candidate is performing the exam/test correctly through observation, however the candidate is expected to verbalize which exam they are performing.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMAGING: Candidate will verbalize whether radiographs need be ordered and provide justification for that decision.

ASSESSMENT/DIAGNOSIS: Candidate will verbalize what diagnosis they have determined based on the information obtained throughout the scenario. Scoring is based on the accuracy of the diagnosis.

INFORMED CONSENT: Candidate must discuss any material risks of proposed treatment and obtain consent to treat with the patient.

TREATMENT PLAN & DEMONSTRATION: Candidate will verbalize a complete description of their proposed treatment plan based on their clinical findings and diagnosis. Additionally, the candidate will explain any chiropractic adjustments to be made, and will demonstrate

how they would set up to perform that adjustment. Some scenarios may include multiple adjustments that the candidate will be expected to explain and set up for demonstration. *Adjustments will not be performed. Only the set up and explanation of the adjustment is scored.*

It is very important that you verbalize (state out loud) what you are doing during each phase of the clinical scenario. You will not receive credit for your work unless it is verbalized. The examiner or the subject/patient will not prompt you.

Please note that the examiner may find it necessary to ask you to pause from time to time so that your score may be entered accurately. When there is a need for a pause, the examiner will say “please pause.” At that point you should stop what you are doing and wait for the examiner to say “please continue.”

X-ray Examination

During this portion of the examination, you will enter a room and be given an answer sheet upon which you must affix one of your identification labels. You will also be given paper upon which your x-ray report must be written. No talking is allowed while taking the X-ray examination. **For all X-ray questions, subluxation is already assumed.**

There are two portions to the x-ray exam. For the question and answer portion, you will proceed around the room to x-ray view boxes that will be numbered to correspond to your questions. After viewing the x-ray, answer the questions related to that x-ray. **You may not put any type of mark on the x-ray.** You have **60 minutes** to complete this portion of the exam.

The other portion of the x-ray exam requires you to write an x-ray report after viewing the x-ray(s). Your report should include:

All observations and impressions including but not limited to:

- Fractures
- Abnormalities
- Degenerative Changes
- Erosive or destructive changes
- Tumors
- Arthritis
- Disc problems
- Deformities
- Osteoporosis
- Scoliosis
- Lordosis

Please note that your x-ray report **must be written or printed by hand in a legible manner.** If the examiner scoring your x-ray report cannot read any portion of the x-ray report because your handwriting

was illegible *to that examiner*, that portion of your exam will not be scored. There is no appeal. You have **30 minutes** to complete this portion of the exam.

Written Examination

The written exam will take place on Friday at the Department of Safety and Professional Services. During this portion of the examination, you will complete a multiple choice exam. The exam is a pencil and paper exam. You will be seated at a table and will have **120 minutes** to complete the written exam.

Passing Grade

In order to pass the exam, you must attain the following:

Clinical Scenarios: You must attain a score of 75% of the 100 points for each individual clinical scenario. In addition, you must also attain a score of:

- 75% of the 90 points available across the three scenarios for the History exam segment; and
- 75% of the 90 points available across the three scenarios for the Physical Exam segment; and
- 75% of the 15 points available across the three scenarios for the Recommendations for Imaging exam segment; and,
- 75% of the 45 points available across the three scenarios for the Assessment/Diagnosis exam segment; and,
- 75% of the 15 points available across the three scenarios for the Informed Consent exam segment; and,
- 75% of the 45 points available across the three scenarios for the Treatment Plan & Demonstration exam segment.

Written Examination: You must attain a score of 75%.

X-Ray: You must attain a score of 75% of the 100 points for the x-ray report narrative. In addition, you must attain a score of 75% of the 900 points for the x-ray question and answer view box segment of the x-ray exam.

Examination Results

You will receive examination results by mail approximately 2 weeks after the date of testing.

Examination Challenges

Please be aware that the Chiropractic Examining Board has determined that you may not perform an examination review or appeal the results from any portion of the exam.

Cheating

Cheating of any kind will result in an automatic failure and a possible restriction on your eligibility to take the practical exam in the future.

Violations

You are required to behave in a professional manner at all times. Should you do any of the following, the test will be suspended and the examiner will consult with Department staff to determine if you may proceed.

- Unauthorized talking during an exam or speaking of the examination content to others
- Inappropriate language
- Inappropriate touching
- Any conduct disrupting the Department's ability to administer the exam to you or others.
- Any activity/procedure that may put the mock patient at risk
- Attempting to engage the examiner and subject in conversation outside what is allowed under the exam rules
- Actions that are outside the chiropractic profession's code of ethical conduct.