



NBEEO Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS) Clarifying Information

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After receiving questions from multiple individuals and holding a focus group with members of the American Optometric Student Association, the NBEEO Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills development team is pleased to offer the following additional clarifying information regarding the launch of the new examination in August. We would like to thank all of the individuals who have reached out with specific questions or participated in the focus group. From those discussions, NBEEO offers this information to provide examples and insights into expectations on examination day. This information is meant to assist candidates in their preparation efforts. This information applies to the August 2024 through June 2025 exam administration.

1. All scoring opportunities for the Part III PEPS exam are detailed in the Evaluation Forms. The Candidate Guide provides specific helpful information describing expectations during the examination. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that all candidates read the Candidate Guide and familiarize themselves with the evaluation forms posted at [Part III PEPS® - NBEEO \(optometry.org\)](#)
2. There is only one diagnosis per encounter/scenario.
3. Optical and pharmaceutical prescriptions must be completely written in the encounter notes plan section [refer to sample encounter notes](#).
4. Standardized patients (SPs) will advise the candidate if they are portraying a child or the parent/guardian of the child at the beginning of the encounter. Remember that SPs may also portray patients that do not look like them.
5. Orders written for referrals must include the specialty to whom the patient is referred and the reason for referral, e.g., *Refer to Neuro-ophthalmology for evaluation of optic disc edema*.
6. Candidates can submit incident reports after every station during the break between stations. All stations conclude with a 4-minute break except for the eighth station, after which there is a 14-minute break. Candidates may snack, use the restroom, or rest during break time.
7. Candidates for Part III PEPS can expect to be onsite for up to 7 hrs.
8. The docking stations to which candidates may choose to connect their laptops in the encounter rooms will allow for a keyboard, mouse, and a larger external monitor to mirror the laptop display (not act as an *extended* display). Use of this docking station is completely optional. It is meant to help candidates who may wish to utilize it.
9. Following the initial Part III PEPS score release in December 2024, any open exam slots in January and February 2025 will be made available to any candidate needing to take or retake the exam. Candidates in the Class of 2025 who have not yet registered for Part III PEPS are highly encouraged to do so prior to the December score release in order to secure an appointment before retakers begin scheduling.
10. Candidates contemplating applying for residency positions are advised to consult the Part III PEPS score release schedule at [Score Release - NBEEO \(optometry.org\)](#) and schedule their testing accordingly.

11. The standardized patient will assess communication and professionalism during each encounter station based on the candidate's explanation of the diagnosis, etiology, and treatment, all of which need to be verbally communicated to the standardized patient in patient-centered language. Please refer to the Communications/Professionalism Scoring Matrix at [2024 Matrix.pdf \(optometry.org\)](#).

[Additional Materials Now Available](#)

[Communication and Professionalism Scoring Matrix](#)

[Sample Encounter Notes](#)

[Candidate Encounter Station Experience Video](#)

[FAQ's](#)

About NBEO — Established in 1951, NBEO is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization whose examinations are universally accepted for optometric licensure in the United States and accepted internationally. NBEO's mission is to protect the public by developing, administering, scoring, and reporting results of valid examinations that assess competency in optometry.