



# Injections Skill Examination (ISE<sup>®</sup>)

## CANDIDATE GUIDE

**For candidates testing beginning August 2025**

EDISON BUILDING, 2nd FLOOR  
7910 MICROSOFT WAY  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28273  
800.969.3926, EXTENSION 2

**EXAM DATES:**  
**August 2025 – May 2026**

*March 26, 2025*

The Injections Skill Examination (ISE®) is composed of one clinical skill, demonstrated within a 15-minute time period.

ISE will be audio and video recorded for review during the scoring process by a remote examiner.

The following are the required procedures to be completed within the skill:

- **Procedure 1: Preparation for Intravenous (IV) Injection for Fluorescein Angiography**
- **Procedure 2: Preparation for Intramuscular (IM) Injection of Epinephrine**
- **Procedure 3: Performing an Intravenous Injection for Fluorescein Angiography**
- **Procedure 4: Performing an Intramuscular Injection of Epinephrine**

**This guide is to be used for preparation of the ISE exam only.**

Described in this document are the ISE clinical assessments that are to be performed. The candidate instructions included at the end of this document will be posted in the exam room for review during the examination.

The evaluation form, equipment list, and other helpful resources are available on our website at <https://www.optometry.org/exams/ise>.

**Candidates are expected to thoroughly review this manual in preparation for ISE. This manual contains all relevant information a candidate needs to adequately prepare.**

**Candidates should be aware that the majority of the information in this manual will not be reviewed again during candidate orientation.**

## OVERVIEW OF TERMS

**Candidate:** An individual taking the exam.

**Evaluation Form:** The yes-no checklist an examiner uses to evaluate the candidate.

**Cycle:** The 15-minute time allocation for the exam.

**Finished:** When a candidate has completed their performance and will no longer be scored on exam items.

**Item:** A numbered procedural element within each procedure.

**NBEO®:** National Board of Examiners in Optometry®

**NCCTO®:** National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry

**NCCTO Staff:** NBEO employees who are responsible for administering the exam.

**Observation Time:** The time before the exam when candidates can familiarize themselves with the exam room.

**Procedure:** The individual procedures within the injections skill. ISE has four separate procedures that make up the overall skill.

**Proctor:** NCCTO staff member who will interact with the candidate during the exam.

**Remote Examiner (RE):** The individual trained to score the candidate's performance remotely.

**Repeat:** When a candidate wishes to repeat a procedure or item.

**Skill:** A substantive component of a patient examination related to a particular technique or well-defined process.

**Station:** Exam room where the candidate performs the skill.

**Stop:** When a candidate's performance is stopped for either safety purposes or because they have used all available attempts to complete a procedure.

## **EXAM PREPARATION**

### **PREPARATION**

In addition to reviewing this candidate guide, the following information should be reviewed by candidates in preparing for their exam:

- Evaluation Form
  - The evaluation form contains the items examiners use to assess a candidate's performance. The exam items are in the form of yes-no checklists. Items must be completed **in their entirety** to receive credit.
- Candidate Orientation Video
- Site Information & Equipment List
- Information regarding traveling to Charlotte, hotels, etc.

These resources can be found at <https://www.optometry.org/exams/ise>.

### **EQUIPMENT**

All necessary equipment used during the exam will be provided by the NCCTO. Candidates should not bring any equipment with them to the test center.

### **ATTIRE**

Candidates are expected to wear *professional attire*.

- NBEO considers professional attire as attire that **EXCLUDES** jeans, shorts, athletic pants, T-shirts, scrubs, garments that are immodest (e.g., tank tops, sheer clothing), tennis shoes, sneakers, or flip-flops.
- Collared short-sleeved shirts are acceptable.
- **Candidates must bring and wear white lab coats throughout the exam.**

The NCCTO staff will address candidates reporting to the NCCTO in attire deemed inappropriate, **and they may not be permitted to take the exam.**

## NBEO ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Candidates must know their OE TRACKER® number and NBEO password, which will be used to complete check-in and complete a required incident report at the end of their exam. The NBEO password is the same password the candidate created and used to register for the NBEO exam or to view scores on the NBEO website.

## ARRIVAL TO TEST CENTER

### REPORTING LOCATION

The reporting location beginning August 2025 is:

**Edison Building  
7910 Microsoft Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Charlotte, NC 28273**

### REPORTING TIME

**Candidates must report to the NCCTO on the date and time for which they registered online.**

The check-in process begins at the time reflected in the candidate's email regarding registration. Candidates can [review registration here](#).

- **Candidates should carefully check their registration date and time. Please note, if a Candidate arrives at the NCCTO on the wrong date and/or at the wrong time, the NCCTO will not be able to accommodate the Candidate. Candidates who arrive later than their scheduled exam date/time will need to register again and the standard exam fees will apply.**

Candidates should anticipate being on-site for approximately one hour for the exam. This time includes check-in, orientation, examination, and check-out. Candidates should arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to their listed registration time. Entrance to the building will not be permitted prior to that time. No guests are allowed in the building.

Candidates who arrive late for check-in may be disqualified from the examination session. In the event of a late check-in, the candidate forfeits their right to being tested (and the exam fee) for that date's administration.

- Additional information can be found in the FAQs on our website.

### PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

You will be required to show two valid forms of personal identification. In order to be considered valid, the ID must match the name used to register for the exam. Both forms must contain your signature and must be current (not expired). At least one form must be a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, a passport, or a military ID. The other ID may be a student identification card, a credit or debit card, or another card that has your name and signature. Candidates who do not have proper ID may be denied admission to the exam and are not eligible for a refund for the exam fee.

## **ON-SITE EXAM DAY CHECK-IN**

### **ARM BANDS / CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION**

All candidates will be provided with two armbands to display their assigned candidate badge number. These arm bands must be worn throughout the exam.

- The candidate badge number should always be displayed on the side of the arm.
- The back/inside of the badge will contain the candidate's name and OE TRACKER number. These are provided for verification purposes. Candidates should introduce themselves by their OE TRACKER when the exam cycle begins. Staff may ask a candidate for their OE TRACKER, if not stated.

### **PHOTOGRAPH**

A staff member will take a picture of each candidate during check-in to ensure that the correct candidate is being evaluated.

- For identification purposes, the candidate should appear in the photo as they will during the exam. For example, if the candidate plans to wear glasses during the exam, the candidate should wear them in the photo; if they plan to have their hair pulled up in a ponytail, they should do so in the photo.

### **PERSONAL ITEMS AND LOCKER USE**

Candidates **cannot** enter the NCCTO with any item considered luggage. Please plan accordingly.

Luggage items are considered: suitcases, roller bags (larger than backpack-size), and any item not able to fit in the lockers.

- **Candidates will be turned away if luggage is brought to the NCCTO, which could impact the amount of time a candidate has for orientation.**
- **NO FIREARMS OR OTHER WEAPONS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED IN THE NCCTO. CANDIDATES FOUND TO BE IN POSSESSION OF ANY SUCH ITEM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ADMITTANCE INTO THE NCCTO AND/OR WILL BE ESCORTED FROM THE PREMISES BY NCCTO SECURITY.**

Lockers will be provided for candidates to store small personal items not allowed in the testing area. NCCTO considers cell phones, watches, wallets, purses, backpacks, etc., personal items.

- Locker dimensions: 16 ½ inches deep, 10 ½ inches wide, and 27 ½ inches tall. All personal items must fit securely inside the locker space.

### **HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC FILES**

**No notes (including both electronic and written materials) may be taken into the testing area at any time.** Candidates may keep written materials during the orientation time only. These should be placed in the candidate's locker prior to the start of the exam.

- Any notes and/or written materials discovered during the exam will be confiscated by NCCTO staff and may be considered Improper Conduct (as defined in the Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement).

**Please see the Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement (available on the NBEO website) for information on Improper Conduct and the potential consequences for Improper Conduct.**

## ORIENTATION

Following check-in, the candidates will be directed to the orientation room. Orientation time may be used for candidates to familiarize themselves with the equipment and supplies which will be found in the exam room.

### EQUIPMENT OVERVIEW IN ORIENTATION ROOM

Candidates are requested to treat the equipment with care. If there are any issues with the equipment or supplies, please inform a staff member.

- The orientation room's injections arms will have water instead of fake blood. Candidates are encouraged to spend time with the simulated arm to familiarize themselves with the layout.

Information regarding specific equipment and supplies should be reviewed online in the ISE Site Information & Equipment Guide at <https://www.optometry.org/exams/ise>.

## DURING THE EXAMINATION

### REASONABLE ITEMS

Candidates are allowed to have reasonable items during the examination. All items must be provided to staff for inspection and approval.

Examples of reasonable items are:

- Tissues
- Cough drops, mints, gum
- Lip balm, hair ties, hair clips, sanitary items, etc.
- Eye patch

The following reasonable items must remain outside the exam room:

- Bottles of water/soda, etc. Labels on bottles must be removed, and bottles must contain a lid.
- Individually wrapped snack items.

### CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION & INTRODUCTION

During the exam, candidates should refer to themselves by their OE TRACKER number.

### TIMEKEEPING

Candidates are responsible for monitoring their time. Proctors will not remind candidates of the remaining time.

- No watches are allowed in the exam rooms; watches must be placed in the candidate's locker at check-in time.
- A countdown clock is available on the exam room computer monitor for candidates to use. **Use of the countdown clock is optional. It is not the official timer for the exam; announcements are the official timers.**
- If time expires before a candidate completes the station, the items not performed cannot be scored.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are four announcements that play throughout the exam:

1. **“Patients and examiners, please report to your designated exam rooms”** signals the test center personnel to prepare for the exam to start. *This announcement is not relevant for candidates.*
2. **“Candidates, please enter the exam room”** signals candidates to enter their station and begin their observation time while the door remains open.
  - There will be an announcement indicating there are 30 seconds remaining in the observation time.
3. **“The exam cycle has begun”** signals the official start of the 15-minute exam cycle.
4. **“The exam cycle has ended, please proceed to your next exam room”** signals the official end of the examination cycle, at which point the candidate will exit the room.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

Following orientation, candidates will be escorted to the exam hallway. Candidates will stand outside their assigned exam room and wait for the announcement to enter the room. Once this announcement plays, candidates may enter the exam room and begin their observation time.

### CANDIDATE OBSERVATION TIME

Candidates are provided with approximately three minutes of observation time in the station before the exam cycle begins.

Information for the specific station is posted on the computer monitor for the candidate to review.

- Exam room computers are only for viewing the station instructions and using the countdown clock. Candidates are prohibited from using these computers for anything else.

**Any items performed before the exam begins (e.g., washing hands) will not be scored and must be repeated once the exam begins.**

During the observation time, candidates are encouraged to:

- Become familiar with the layout of the exam room
- Set out supplies that will be used (do not open packages)
- Review station instructions on the computer monitor
- Review the posted repeat policy

During the observation time, candidates cannot:

- Perform any scoreable items on the simulated arm
- Write on any pieces of paper
- Open any sealed packages

## CANDIDATE COMPLETION OF A STATION

The exam ends with the fourth announcement, or by the candidate stating they are finished, whichever occurs first.

- Candidates who finish the exam before the ending announcement plays and wish to end the scoring portion of the station, may make the following statement to the proctor: “I am finished with this exam station.” At this time, the candidate **will not be allowed to perform any additional items** and will be escorted out of the exam room. It is up to the candidate whether or not to make this statement.
- If the candidate makes a confusing statement or begins any casual conversation, the proctor will remind the candidate that it is the candidate’s responsibility to let them know if they are finished.

## PERFORMANCE OF PROCEDURES / ITEMS

Items are sequenced in the order in which they should be optimally conducted. Candidates may alter the sequencing of certain items performed within a procedure, **as long as the candidate's sequence makes logical sense.**

## REPEATING ITEMS / PROCEDURES

Repeat information is posted in each exam room for candidate review during the examination.

### Repeating Items

- Candidates who wish to repeat items may do so as long as it is still within logical sequence. For instance, if during Procedure 1, a candidate was not confident in the amount of medication they withdrew from the vial, they could draw additional medication.

### Repeating Procedures

- Candidates **must announce** their intention to repeat before repeating the procedure and include the procedure number by stating, for example, "I am going to repeat Procedure 3, IV Injection." At this point the candidate should return to the first item in the procedure and continue on.
- Once the candidate makes the repeat statement, all previous scores recorded by the examiner are erased, and the candidate is evaluated as if performing the entire procedure for the first time.
- A stopped procedure cannot be repeated.

### Repeating Cautions

- While repeating can be a positive option, candidates are strongly encouraged to ensure they can repeat the procedure within the time limitation.
- It has been noted that candidates who have not monitored their time sufficiently and try to repeat an entire procedure for one missed item often run out of time.
- Additionally, it has often been noted that candidates repeating a procedure tend to focus so much on the missed items, that they ultimately miss other items, resulting in a lower score than initially obtained.

## NOTE-TAKING

Once the cycle begins, candidates will be provided with a half sheet of blank green paper. If you do not receive a piece of green paper, simply tell the proctor and they will provide it to you. Nothing written on this green paper will be scored, and it must be left in the exam room.

## PROCTORS

Proctors are present during the exam and will respond to all questions relating to the exam. Proctors are not responsible for scoring the exam.

## OBSERVERS

Occasionally, additional personnel may be on-site observing the exam. Personnel may observe any aspect of the exam to include being in the exam room during the cycle. Observers will not have any effect on a candidate's score and should be ignored by the candidate. These personnel have been instructed not to converse with candidates or proctors in the examination rooms.

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS DURING THE EXAM

Outside of regular exam questions (e.g., allergies, etc.) during the exam, proctors can only answer "where" questions, such as where the room lighting control is or where supplies/clinical materials are located.



- Candidates may ask “where” questions at any time during the observation time and exam time.
- Proctors can answer a limited number of “set-up” questions during observation time (for example: “Can I move the arm?”).
- Questions on **how** to do things, **how** to use equipment, or other instructional questions are not appropriate and will not be answered.
- **No additional examination time will be provided for any time used to ask and answer candidate questions.**

## STATING FINDINGS

- Candidates are strongly encouraged to talk through their exam.
- Candidates are encouraged to speak **clearly** and **audibly**.

## SAFETY & PROCEDURE ATTEMPTS

### Handwashing

- Candidates are expected to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.

### Intervenes/Corrective Actions

- Proctors may request candidates to wash their hands, appropriately handle a needle prick, if additional contamination may occur, or cap a needle when presented uncapped.

### Safety and STOPS

- Keep in mind that a Remote Examiner may deem an action as grossly endangering the proctor or potential patient (represented by the simulated arm) and stop scoring a procedure even though the proctor in the room allowed the candidate to continue.
- If a candidate is stopped, they will be scored “no” on any remaining items in the stopped procedure and cannot repeat a stopped procedure.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment may be considered Improper Conduct as defined in the Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement.

### Procedure Attempts

- Candidates are only scored on the first four attempts at obtaining blood in Procedure 3. Any further attempts will not be scored, and it will be treated as a **stop**. The proctor **will not** verbally stop a candidate as it is up to the candidate to **monitor their own attempts**.

## STAFF INTERACTIONS

Proctors and staff are trained to be neutral or show little emotion during the exam. Candidates should not regard this as a personal dislike or as an indication of performance quality. Candidates should be aware that NBEO is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of dignity and respect at all times.

### Proctor Titles

- Candidates may refer to the proctor as “Mr. or Ms. Lee.” Lee is the fictitious family name assigned to all proctors and arms.

### Staff Interaction during Exam

- During the exam, proctors may say very little other than what has been scripted.
- If a candidate asks a question that cannot be answered, proctors or staff may respond with “I do not have that information,” “I can’t answer that,” or “It is up to you.” These comments are not indicators of a candidate’s performance or decisions, but simply an answer for a situation where the proctor/staff cannot provide guidance.
- If asked, proctors will not provide guidance on how or what to perform. Candidates must use their best judgement in these situations.

## CANDIDATE WOUNDS / INJURIES / MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Any open wounds on a candidate's finger or hand must be covered. If you have questions or concerns about whether a wound needs to be covered, you can show the wound to staff during the check-in process.

Should a candidate become injured during the exam, a bandage and glove will be provided.

- If a candidate believes they have injured themselves, they must notify personnel in the exam room (or front desk if injury occurs in the orientation room).
- When a candidate experiences an injury (e.g. needle prick) in which the potential for blood-borne pathogens exposure is possible, candidates must use Universal Precautions. The CDC recommends Universal Precautions for the care of all patients, regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status.
  - **Universal Precautions** apply to 1) blood; 2) all body fluids, secretions, and excretions, except sweat, regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood; 3) non-intact skin; and 4) mucous membranes. Standard precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection in hospitals.
  - **Universal Precautions** include use of handwashing, appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves, gowns, masks, whenever touching or exposure to patients' body fluids is anticipated.
- Candidates should not assume that they are not bleeding. Often an incident like a needle prick will take several minutes to produce any blood.
- Candidates should bandage any potential wounds that occur to ensure overall safety of personnel.
- Bandaging the wound early ultimately saves candidate's time during the process and prevents further issues from occurring in regard to blood contamination of materials and equipment.
- Out of concern for proctor safety and to prevent contamination of exam equipment, **any bleeding must be stopped prior to continuing the exam.**

No additional time will be given during the exam for injuries that occur as a result of candidate error.

In the event of a medical emergency during the exam, candidates should remain calm and a staff member will be there to assist and assess the situation.

## RESTROOM / DRINKING FOUNTAIN USE

It is advisable for candidates to use the restroom before the examination begins. No time allowance is given for restroom use during the examination session. In the event a candidate needs to use the restroom during the exam, they should inform the proctor who will escort them to the restroom. The same principles for restroom use apply to using the water fountain.

## POST-EXAMINATION INFORMATION

### CANDIDATE INCIDENT REPORTS & SURVEYS

At the conclusion of the examination, all candidates will exit the exam room and sit at a computer workstation.

- All candidates must log in using their OE TRACKER® and password (created by the candidate used to register for the exam or view scores on the NBEO website).
- After logging in candidates must select whether they have an incident to report.
- Candidates are encouraged to think through their exam and use this opportunity to document any irregularity that may have occurred which a candidate feels may have negatively impacted their performance. Incident reports **will not be accepted** from candidates once they have left the exam hallway.

- Candidates can document any concerns involving the equipment, proctors, or the candidate's individual performance.

Once all incident reports have been submitted, they will be reviewed by staff. **Staff may review videos and/or interview the proctor for more information regarding the incident report.** Additionally, staff will inspect any reported equipment malfunction.

- Staff will only discuss incidents with candidates if clarification or further information is needed. If staff discusses an incident report with a candidate in the exam room, the candidate should assume the discussion is being recorded.
- Candidates should remain at the workstation until dismissed by staff. Once all incident reports have been reviewed, addressed, and it is determined that all issues have been resolved, staff will dismiss candidates from the exam hall.

## RETEST POLICY

NBEO retest policy dictates that repeat tests are provided only due to administrative irregularities (e.g., equipment failure, loss of electrical power, or an unacceptable proctor) which may have negatively affected the candidate's performance.

## ADDITIONAL EXAM INFORMATION

### CANDIDATE-TO-CANDIDATE INTERACTION

Candidates may only engage in conversation with each other during the check-in and orientation time. **Once candidates are escorted to the exam hallway, candidates may NOT communicate with any other candidate until they complete their exam and exit the NCCTO.**

- "Communication" includes conversation, verbal statements, non-verbal cues/expressions (e.g., thumbs up/down, shaking head, high-fives), and passing notes.
- Violation of this policy may be considered Improper Conduct under the Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement.

### EXAM CONDUCT

All exams administered at the NCCTO are recorded (audio and video). All candidates sign and agree to the Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement and Ethics Policy when registering for ISE. Copies of the Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement and Ethics Policy are also available on the NBEO website.

### SCORING PRACTICES

NBEO uses quantitative and qualitative data analysis to evaluate examination uniformity and fairness. Candidates who achieve scores at or above the overall cut-off requirement receive a passing score. A score below the cut-off requirement will result in a failing score.

## ISE OVERVIEW

During the Injections Skill Exam, a proctor will serve as the "patient." All questions and inquiries should be directed to the proctor for confirmation.

**The Injections Skill is comprised of four distinct procedures that must be performed in order:**

- Procedure 1: Preparation for Intravenous (IV) Injection for Fluorescein Angiography
- Procedure 2: Preparation for Intramuscular (IM) Injection of Epinephrine
- Procedure 3: Performing an Intravenous Injection for Fluorescein Angiography
- Procedure 4: Performing an Intramuscular Injection of Epinephrine

This station integrates IV injection, as would be done for fluorescein angiography, with the intramuscular injection of epinephrine. This is clinically realistic since a needle/syringe filled with 1:1000 epinephrine would be prepared prior to performing fluorescein angiography in the event the patient experiences an anaphylactic reaction due to the injection of fluorescein sodium dye.

Given the nature and criticality of the injections to be performed, candidates should assume:

- an appropriate written informed consent has been discussed with and signed by the patient prior to performing the injections.
- the patient's identity has been verified using two methods such as name, date of birth, last four digits of the SSN, and/or address prior to performing the injections.
- the nature of the injection procedures and the injection sites have been verified by asking the patient to verbalize their understanding.
- the patient is male and has been found to have a normal BP measurement during the pre-procedure work-up.

Materials placed on the drape initially will be considered aseptic. Materials NOT initially placed on the drape are not considered aseptic. The gloves that are used in performing an intravenous injection for fluorescein angiography may be left on while performing an intramuscular injection of epinephrine. If desired, candidates may wash their hands while wearing the protective gloves.

A standard multi-use medication vial will be provided and labeled "25% fluorescein sodium" with an expiration date; however, the solution in the vial will be clear as it is simulated medication.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to thoroughly palpate the arm by actually feeling for a vein and pressing on the arm. Do not choose injection sites based on a visual inspection of the arm. Palpation is essential. Clean any injection site prior to inserting the needle.

Regarding the four intravenous injection attempts, an "attempt" is viewed as piercing the skin of the arm and removing the needle from the skin or excessive manipulation of the needle within the simulated arm. An automatic stop occurs after four attempts and **scoring** by the remote examiner will stop. Candidates have four attempts total. This includes any repeats. For instance, if you complete two attempts then perform IM and decide to repeat Procedure 3, you would have two attempts remaining. The proctor will not initiate a reminder of the number of attempts taken or remaining, nor will the proctor stop the candidate after the fourth attempt.

It should also be noted that **excessive manipulation** of the needle within the arm is not acceptable. Excessive manipulation will be counted as an additional attempt or possibly multiple attempts if the manipulation of the needle within the arm is egregious. Candidates should treat the simulation arm as they would a human arm during the injections procedures.

The simulated arms are designed to replicate an adult human arm. Veins that would be reasonable to draw blood from on a human arm are replicated in the simulated arm. When completing an IV injection, if the tubing is not filling **solidly** with blood, the candidate is not appropriately in a vein. Any "splatter" of blood or intermittent blood flow is an indication that the candidate has not appropriately entered and remained in a vein (see the orientation video for pictures).

Candidates will often assume that seeing some blood indicates they are appropriately in a vein and will pull the plunger of their syringe back so far that the plunger reaches the end of the syringe. In this case, the candidate has no room to pull back on the syringe for "suction" on any further attempts. In these situations, due to the nature of the exam, before completing any additional attempts, it is to the

candidate's benefit to safely express any air aspirated into the syringe, so there will be "suction" for future attempts. Again, if a candidate is pulling on the plunger and the tubing is not filling **solidly** and **consistently** with blood, the candidate is not appropriately in a vein.

An IM injection of simulated 1:1000 epinephrine solution is to be performed in the **center** of the deltoid muscle on the simulated arm. NBEO recognizes that injection of epinephrine to treat an anaphylactic reaction is usually administered intramuscularly in the outer thigh of a patient. However, NBEO views the skills needed to perform IM injection in the center of the deltoid muscle of the simulated arm to be similar to the administration of epinephrine by injection at another anatomical site.

**WHEN REPEATING INJECTIONS:**

Candidates who wish to repeat one or more items may do so at their discretion **if** it can be logically performed at that time.

In the event the candidate wishes to repeat a procedure, it is necessary to clearly announce which **specific** procedure (Procedure 1, 2, 3 and/or 4) you wish to repeat **before** repeating the procedure. When a candidate wishes to repeat either Procedure 3 (IV injection) or Procedure 4 (IM injection), a needle and syringe can be quickly assembled with fluid (not for scoring purposes) to complete the procedure. It is not necessary to repeat preparation items unless you are specifically repeating Procedures 1 and/or 2. Instead, you are only obtaining the supplies you will need to perform Procedures 3 and/or 4.

When repeating an entire procedure, candidates must announce their intent and return to the first item in the procedure. In repeating the procedure, **all** prior scores recorded by the examiner are erased, and the candidate is evaluated as if performing the entire procedure for the first time. Specific injections repeat policies are posted on the exam room door for reference during the exam. As a reminder, a stopped procedure cannot be repeated. As such, if a candidate has completed four attempts on the IV injection, it is considered a stop and should not be repeated.

***NBEO would like to extend its collective best wishes for your success.***

# INJECTIONS SKILL EXAM INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATE

August 2025-May 2026

*(posted on the exam room computer)*

All injections questions/communications should be directed to the proctor.

## **Procedure 1: Preparation for Intravenous (IV) Injection for Fluorescein Angiography**

You are to prepare a 5mL syringe and needle appropriately for intravenous injection with 3.0 mL 25% fluorescein sodium while maintaining aseptic technique.

## **Procedure 2: Preparation for Intramuscular (IM) Injection of Epinephrine**

You are to prepare a 1mL syringe and needle appropriately for intramuscular injection with 0.4 mL 1:1000 epinephrine while maintaining aseptic technique.

## **Procedure 3: Performing an Intravenous Injection for Fluorescein Angiography**

You are to perform an intravenous injection of fluorescein sodium into an appropriate venous site of the simulated arm (hand, antecubital, or another site in the lower arm). State the injection elements that should be documented in a patient record (drug, dose, delivery method, location). Discard all items into a wastebasket as non-biohazards except for needles, which should be discarded in the Sharps container.

## **Procedure 4: Performing an Intramuscular Injection of Epinephrine**

You are to perform an intramuscular injection of 1:1000 epinephrine into the **center** of the deltoid muscle on the simulated arm. State the injection elements that should be documented in a patient record (drug, dose, delivery method, location). Discard all items into a wastebasket as non-biohazards except for needles, which should be discarded in the Sharps container.

### **WHEN REPEATING INJECTIONS**

- In the event the candidate wishes to repeat a procedure, it is necessary to clearly announce which specific procedure (Procedure 1, 2, 3, and/or 4) you wish to repeat before repeating the procedure.
- When a candidate wishes to repeat either Procedure 3 (IV injection) and/or Procedure 4 (IM injection), a needle and syringe can be quickly assembled with fluid (not for scoring purposes) to complete the procedure.
- It is not necessary to repeat preparation items unless you are specifically repeating Procedures 1 and/or 2.

**THIS IS A 15-MINUTE STATION**

**Candidates are encouraged to review the ISE evaluation form for detailed information on the items required to be completed during the examination.**