

CNT Course Technical Standards

Completion of the Clean Needle Technique (CNT) program is dependent on essential, non-academic abilities and characteristics that require a minimum physical and cognitive capacity. Those essential abilities and characteristics defined herein are also known as technical standards. Advance knowledge of these standards can be particularly helpful in identifying and communicating a need for accommodations during the program.

CCAAM intends for candidates to 1) utilize best practice protocols and up-to-date knowledge as competent professionals and 2) be prepared to meet any Clean Needle Technique certification requirement for state licensure, national board certification, etc.

For those candidates who meet the CNT Eligibility Requirements (https://www.ccahm.org/ccaom/Policies_and_Procedures.asp#Eligibility), the following technical standards are prerequisites for entrance into and completion of the core competencies of the CNT program:

Observational and Cognitive/Intellectual Skills

The CNT online course is composed of 16 distinct modules paired with required reading from the most recent edition of the Clean Needle Technique Manual. Modules are centered around video lectures where information is conveyed through embedded text and audio.

Ability to assimilate, synthesize, critically evaluate, and retain information from the CNT online course and CNT manual is essential to obtaining CNT certification. The use of vision *or the functional equivalent* is necessary to access CNT course materials and answer questions on course quizzes and the written examination. The use of hearing *or the functional equivalent* is necessary to access video lectures and communicate with proctors during the written and practical examinations.

A candidate must also have the ability to detect and correct any errors made in CNT protocol during the practical examination.

Communication

A candidate must have sufficient ability to communicate in English in order to register for the CNT online course and engage with information on the CCAHM website and contained in CCAHM office communications. The CNT online course, written examination, and practical examination are available in a limited number of other languages (to be selected at the time of registration). However, some materials provided to candidates will be presented in English regardless of course/exam language chosen.

As part of the initial setup and review of the candidate's testing environment, a candidate may be asked to make real-time adjustments in response to proctor prompts and directions. The practical examination is graded in part on the candidate's communication with the proctor (e.g. ability to describe the contents of the CNT travel kit, following instructions from the CNT examination proctor, describing each step of the protocol as it is performed, notifying the proctor of readiness for the next instruction, etc.).

Motor Function & Physical Abilities

The purpose of CNT certification is to disseminate and standardize knowledge of adverse events, best practice protocols, and safety measures surrounding acupuncture and related modalities.

The practical examination component of certification specifically tests competency in the insertion of filiform needles into human tissue. In accordance with CNT protocol, it is essential that a candidate have the ability to:

1. assemble the CNT travel kit
2. prepare and maintain a clean field
3. demonstrate the self-insertion, manipulation, withdrawal, and isolation of filiform needles as part of a live practical examination.

Candidates must have the ability to interface with and implement the minimum technology requirements

(https://www.ccahm.org/ccaom/CNT_Online_Course_Technical_Requirements.asp) necessary for completion of the online CNT course and both the written and practical examinations.

Ethics & Professionalism

Candidates must abide by the CCAHM Cheating Policy Statement (available within the CNT course, after Module 16) and conduct themselves in a respectful and appropriate manner befitting a healthcare professional. Careful review of CCAHM policies and procedures

(https://www.ccahm.org/ccaom/Policies_and_Procedures.asp) is necessary to understand the structure of the CNT program and requirements for certification.

Effective communication is an integral part of professionalism and candidates are expected to notify CCAHM when they require additional information or assistance.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to submit a request for disability accommodations in a timely manner, providing the required supporting documentation as outlined in CCAHM policies and procedures.

Assessment and Implementation of Reasonable Accommodations

CCAHM is committed to supporting and retaining the number of clinicians with disabilities to better reflect the diversity of patient populations and increase access to empathic healthcare. The full and meaningful inclusion of qualified individuals with disabilities is realized through individual accommodations and reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures.

A candidate is expected to meet the technical standards and core competencies of the CNT program with or without accommodations. Disability accommodations are requested either at the time of registration or prior to scheduled examinations. The process for requesting accommodations can be found within CCAHM's Policies and Procedures under Disability Accommodations (https://www.ccahm.org/ccaom/Policies_and_Procedures.asp#Disability_Accommodations). The nature and extent of certain accommodations can require additional time to administer. Candidates must make a request with sufficient notice to CCAHM if approved accommodations are to be fully implemented.

Candidates may be asked for additional clarification or documentation as part of the interactive process to determine reasonable accommodations. Disability accommodations will not be provided retroactively, highlighting the need for early self-disclosure of disability status. A disability-related rationale does not negate unsatisfactory performance, undesired examination outcomes, or unprofessional behavior.

Statement of Understanding and Agreement

By signing the CNT Eligibility Requirements Form, a candidate attests to having reviewed these technical standards for admittance into the Clean Needle Technique program. Candidates agree to follow the aforementioned procedures.

Approved
CCAHM
03/08/2022
ADA Compliance Consultant
CCAHM CNT Admin

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