

Learning Objectives tested in the Stage A Written Examination

Updated April 2021

DOMAIN 10	CLINICAL PRACTICE
Sub-domain 11	Clinical Process
Theme 11.1	Clinical Skills
11.1.1	Elicit the history and obtain other relevant data
11.1.2	Conduct an appropriate physical examination
11.1.3	Synthesise findings from history and physical examination to develop a differential diagnosis and management plan
11.1.4	Plan and arrange investigations appropriately
Theme 11.2	Patient Care and Therapeutics
11.2.1	Manage general care in the unwell patient
11.2.2	Prescribe appropriate and safe pharmacotherapy
11.2.3	Incorporate health and wellness promotion in clinical practice
11.2.4	Manage patients with surgical problems
11.2.5	Facilitate ongoing care planning
Theme 11.3	Procedural Skills
11.3.1	Prepare patient for procedure
11.3.2	Perform emergency and routine procedures
11.3.3	Provide care following procedure
Sub-domain 12	Medical Expertise
Theme 12.1	Management of Acute Medical Problems
12.1.1	Recognise and manage the critically ill patient
12.1.2	Manage acute specific medical problems
12.1.3	Communicate with patients and their families/carers in an emergency situation
Theme 12.2	Management of Patients with Undifferentiated Presentations
12.2.1	Manage patients with undifferentiated presentations
Theme 12.3	Management of Patients with Disorders of an Organ System
12.3.1	Manage patients with disorders of the cardiovascular system
12.3.2	Manage patients with endocrine and metabolic disorders
12.3.3	Manage patients with disorders of the gastrointestinal system
12.3.4	Manage patients with non-malignant disorders of the haematological system

12.3.5	Manage patients with disorders of the immune system
12.3.6	Manage patients with mental health disorders
12.3.7	Manage patients with disorders of the musculoskeletal system
12.3.8	Manage patients with disorders of the neurological system
12.3.9	Manage patients with disorders of the renal and genitourinary systems
12.3.10	Manage patients with disorders of the respiratory and sleep system
12.3.11	Manage patients with skin disorders
12.3.12	Manage patients with common eye conditions
12.3.13	Manage patients with common ear conditions
Theme 12.4	Management of Patients with Defined Disease Processes
12.4.1	Manage patients with neoplastic diseases
12.4.2	Manage patients with genetic disorders
12.4.3	Manage adult patients with infectious diseases
Theme 12.5	Medicine Through the Lifespan – Growth and Development
12.5.1	Manage common presentations in adolescents
12.5.2	Manage issues in regard to pregnancy and reproduction
12.5.3	Manage common problems associated with the menopause
12.5.4	Manage problems in the older person
12.5.5	Manage patients at the end of life

DOMAIN 20	WORKPLACE HAZARD ASSESSMENT
Theme 20.1	Properties and Mechanisms of Harm of Agents that can Affect Health
20.1.1	Describe the properties of physical agents that can affect health
20.1.2	Describe the chemical properties that are relevant to health
20.1.3	Describe the properties of biological agents that can affect health
DOMAIN 30	CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF INFORMATION
Theme 30.1	Finding and Application of Information
30.1.1	Demonstrate understanding of the principles of evidence-based medicine, the limitations of evidence and the challenge of applying research findings to daily clinical practice
Theme 30.2	Clinical Decision Making
30.2.1	Understand and apply the process of diagnostic reasoning
30.2.2	Prognosticate and predict risk
30.2.3	Derive therapeutic decisions which maximise patient benefit and acceptance

30.2.4	Use evidence effectively and efficiently to inform clinical decision making
Theme 30.3	Diagnostic and Screening Tests
30.3.1	Appraise a test in accord with the properties of the test and characteristics of those being tested
Theme 30.4	Evaluation of Health Interventions
30.4.1	Appraise the likely efficacy of a reported health intervention
30.4.2	Appraise the economic evaluation of an intervention
Theme 30.5	Attribution of Cause
30.5.1	Appraise support for an alleged causal association between a health effect and an exposure
Theme 30.6	Compliance with Preventive Interventions and Procedures
30.6.1	Appraise interventions including strategies to improve adherence to protective measures

DOMAIN 60	PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES
Sub-domain 61	Communication
<p><i>In order to provide high-quality care for patients, it is essential that physicians establish and foster effective relationships with patients and their families, other health care professionals, and administrative personnel.</i></p> <p><i>To achieve this they must develop and use the full range of skills related to communication that will enable them to effectively obtain and synthesise information from, and discuss relevant issues with, patients and their families, professional colleagues, administrative personnel and systems as appropriate. These communication skills are characterised by understanding, trust, respect, empathy, and confidentiality. Effective communication skills will also facilitate their ability to research, evaluate, and disseminate information in the broader community.</i></p> <p><i>First encounters can have a profound effect on practice. Therefore it is important to develop effective communication strategies early on in training.</i></p>	
Theme 61.1	Physician-Patient Communication
61.1.1	Apply communication skills to engage and reassure the patient in specific situations, including first encounters, history taking, counselling, and breaking bad news
61.1.2	Empower patients and be respectful of their rights in all aspects of communication
Theme 61.2	Communication with a Third Party, Including the Patient's Employer or Their Family and/or Carers
61.2.1	Apply communication skills in encounters with a third party, including a patient's employer or family (including extended family) and/or carers
Theme 61.3	Communication with Colleagues and the Broader Health Care Team
61.3.1	Communicate effectively within multidisciplinary teams
61.3.2	Communicate effectively with referring doctors, and when referring a patient to another specialist
61.3.3	Apply communication skills to facilitate effective clinical handover and transfer of care
61.3.4	Communicate effectively with health administration
Theme 61.4	Communication with the Broader Community

61.4.1	Communicate effectively with support organisations, administrative bodies, governments, and others in the wider community
61.4.2	Demonstrate the ability to apply specific medico-legal communication practices
Sub-domain 62	Quality and Safety
<i>Quality and safety guidelines are developed to ensure the safe and quality care of patients. The implementation of these standards is the responsibility of all health care workers. Physicians must consider quality and safety in every aspect of their practice, from their interactions (communication) with patients, to managing and reporting risks and hazards.</i>	
Theme 62.1	Use of Evidence and Information
62.1.1	Use evidence to inform quality improvement
Theme 62.2	Safe Practice
62.2.1	Optimise safe work practice which minimises error
62.2.2	Facilitate safe prescribing and administration of medication and display an understanding of the associated error types, causes, and risks
62.2.3	Promote safe continuity of care for patients
Theme 62.3	Identification, Prevention and Management of Potential Harm
62.3.1	Recognise, report on and manage adverse events and error
62.3.2	Identify, establish, implement and/or comply with relevant risk-management and risk-minimisation procedures
62.3.3	Identify risks to health arising from one's own work activities
62.3.4	Understand the process of managing complaints and how to utilise complaints to enhance medical care
Sub-domain 63	Teaching and Learning (Scholar)
<i>Physicians should actively contribute to the further research, development, appraisal, understanding, and dissemination of health care knowledge among their professional colleagues, students, and patients and within the broader general community.</i>	
<i>As with any profession, physicians need to model and engage in a process of continuing personal, professional, and educational development in order to maintain, further develop, and extend their professional knowledge, clinical skills, and technical expertise. This is especially important within the current context of an ever-increasing, rapid, and exponential growth in knowledge and its related applications.</i>	
Theme 63.1	Ongoing Learning
63.1.1	Participate in effective continuing professional and educational development
Theme 63.3	Educator
63.3.1	Recognise the importance of health education and the role of the physician as a teacher to patients, other physicians and in the wider community, and develop the skills to undertake this role
Sub-domain 64	Cultural Competency
<i>Physicians should display commitment to gaining an understanding of the impact of culture on health outcomes. They must endeavour to become acquainted with the cultural perception of illness, cultural aspects of family, and cultural attitudes toward death and illness held by their patients. Physicians have a responsibility to manage their own development of cultural competency and familiarise themselves with the differing cultures within the community.</i>	

Theme 64.1	Cultural Competency
64.1.1	Manage one's own cultural competency development
64.1.3	Apply specific knowledge of the patient's cultural and religious background, attitudes and beliefs in managing and treating the patient
64.1.6	Demonstrate the ability to promote effective cross-cultural partnerships and culturally diverse teams to improve health outcomes
Sub-domain 65	Ethics
<p><i>Physicians must adopt an ethical attitude towards the practice of medicine. Ethics pervades every aspect of clinical practice, from communication to critical reflection and professional standards. While it is important to bear in mind the relationship of health law and practice, it is important also to understand the distinction between law and ethics. Physicians must cultivate ethical reflection and ethical behaviour through an awareness of ethical principles, health law, and the limits of science on behaviour.</i></p>	
Theme 65.1	Professional Ethics
65.1.1	Demonstrate ability to apply an ethical framework in clinical practice
Theme 65.2	Personal Ethics
65.2.1	Develop a sound professional standard of personal conduct
65.2.2	Demonstrate the ability to reflect critically on personal beliefs, biases and behaviours, and their alignment with health care policy and impact on interaction with patients
Theme 65.3	Ethics and Health Law
65.3.1	Demonstrate the ability to apply legal and ethical frameworks to physician- patient relationships
65.3.2	Demonstrate the ability to apply relevant legislation and ethical frameworks to interactions outside the direct physician-patient relationship
Sub-domain 67	Leadership and Management
<p><i>The professional physician must have the ability to manage and make decisions about the allocation of personal, professional, and organisational resources.</i></p>	
Theme 67.1	Self-management
67.1.1	Implement and model effective self-management practices
67.1.2	Identify personal attributes or health issues that could impair one's performance at work
Sub-domain 68	Health Advocacy
<p><i>Physicians have an obligation, both as individuals and in their profession, to positively influence the health circumstances of a patient. Opportunities for this may lie outside the immediate clinical context, and the patient may need the physician's support for success. The physician may need to add their voice where the patient is vulnerable due to infirmity, age, or commonly stigmatised status (e.g. race, social class, or habit). We refer to this process as advocacy.</i></p> <p><i>Beyond clinical practice, advocacy has a rich history of success in public health where physicians and others have advocated for, and sustained, favourable change in road safety, immunisation, and tobacco control. There is also an opportunity for advocacy for changing the environment or focus of care to improve both the quality and safety of care for others.</i></p>	
Theme 68.1	Advocacy for the Patient
68.1.1	Know and apply the key principles, processes and limitations of advocacy

Theme 68.2	Individual Advocacy
68.2.1	Identify and address key issues affecting personal work environment and recognise the role of advocacy
Theme 68.3	Group Advocacy
68.3.1	Demonstrate an understanding of the necessary steps required to effect change within organisations and the community
Sub-domain 69	The Broader Context of Health
<p><i>Physicians have an obligation to think more broadly than the health of the immediate patient. They must consider the effects of societal issues on health, and broader health determinants. They must be aware of the key population and public health principles.</i></p> <p><i>Physicians will encourage and educate patients to achieve healthier lifestyles and prevent injury, ill health, and disease. To achieve this, familiarity with risk factors (social, environmental, psychological) affecting specific population subgroups, disease-prevention services, and legislation are essential.</i></p>	
Theme 69.1	Burden of Disease
69.1.1	Demonstrate an awareness of the health priorities for the local community, and more broadly for Australia and New Zealand
Theme 69.2	Determinants of Health
69.2.1	Identify and define the determinants of health
Theme 69.3	Prevention and Control
69.3.1	Adopt a population health approach to the prevention of illness, promotion of health and control of disease
Theme 69.4	Priority Population Groups
69.4.1	Implement strategies to reduce inequities in health status between population groups
Theme 69.5	Economics of Health
69.5.1	Demonstrate a basic understanding of the societal, political and economic pressures that influence the way funding is provided and used