A Guide for the CAOP Examination

This document is a guide for candidates to use in preparing for the Competency Assessment for Overseas Pharmacists (CAOP). It outlines the subject areas that will be assessed.

CAOP confirms that you have the prerequisite skills, experience, knowledge and understanding required for safe and effective professional practice.

The examination provides an opportunity for you to display your ability to practice in a safe and effective manner through the analysis and evaluation of practice-based material and problems.

Candidates should assess their own knowledge level. This should then be evaluated as much as is practical against the material on which the examination will be formulated.

APC examinations are set on the latest information available through relevant journals, publications and textbooks.

It is up to the candidate to obtain the latest information. APC does not endorse any reference sources.

Candidates are permitted to take one (1) copy of each of the following reference materials (maximum 3 books) into the examination room:

1. Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH)
   The Australian Medicines Handbook is an evidence-based independent medicines reference preferred by thousands of clinicians in the Australian healthcare sector.

2. Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary (APF)
   This everyday guide to pharmacy practice is an invaluable pharmacy practice resource.

3. British National Formulary (BNF)
   The latest edition of the British National Formulary in print, with an improved monograph structure and treatment summaries for all drugs commonly prescribed in the UK.

The above reference material should NOT contain annotations, handwritten notes or loose additional notes. However, parts of the text may be highlighted or flagged prior to the examination.

Content Areas for the CAOP Examination

The CAOP Exam covers five content areas based on the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2016.
You will be expected to show a suitable level of skills, experience, knowledge and understanding of the following.

1. Calculations
   Determine the required formulation

2. Appropriate approaches to medication management and health promotion
   Obtain relevant health and medicines information
   Assess medication management practices and need
   Collaborate to develop a medication management strategy or plan
   Assist development of health literacy
   Support health promotion activities and health services intended to maintain and improve health

3. Implementation of medication management strategies and plans
   Administer medicines
   Provide primary care and promote judicious use of medicines
   Dispense medicines (including compounded medicines) in consultation with the patient and/or prescriber
   Prescribe medicines
   Provide counselling and information for safe and effective medication management

4. Monitoring and evaluation of medication management strategies and plans
   Apply clinical review findings to improve health outcomes
   Document clinical review findings and changes in medication management

5. Communicate effectively
   Ability to provide clear and concise written instructions on safe and effective medicine use
   Ability to identify relevant medicine use problems and provide written recommendations in clear and simple terms
   Ability to convey message in a logical flow using the appropriate tone in writing

*While grammar and punctuation are not assessed, attention to this in the written question is useful.*