



AIM INTERMEDIATE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION (IPE) 2026

What we expect when you communicate with the model during a technique.

When an examiner asks you to perform a clinical technique, you are expected to demonstrate more than just the mechanical execution of the skill. Your performance will also be evaluated on three essential components:

1. Professional Communication

Before initiating the technique, clearly and concisely explain to the model what you are going to do and why you are doing it. Use language that is appropriate and understandable. When relevant, confirm the model's understanding.

2. Informed Consent

After your explanation, explicitly ask for permission to proceed. Ensure the model agrees to the assessment or intervention. This is distinct from when you will be asked at one of the stations to deliver a full informed consent discussion (1-2 minutes) for a spinal manipulation technique.

3. Professional Attitude and Respect for Integrity and Boundaries

Throughout the interaction, demonstrate a respectful, empathetic, and professional attitude. Safeguard the model's dignity at all times. Monitor comfort and symptoms continuously and be prepared to modify or stop the technique if the model expresses discomfort or adverse symptoms.

Informed Consent Discussion

This will be considered under the **Safety/Comfort/Communication Domain**

Needs Development – candidate stated what they were going to do without explaining the risks or benefits, offering alternative treatment options or providing an opportunity for questions.

Emerging – candidate stated what they were going to do and mentioned some benefits and risks, didn't check for understanding or provide opportunity for questions.

Proficient - candidate covered all necessary elements of informed consent clearly, provided opportunity for questions and gave alternative treatment options but could have been more efficient.

Exemplary - candidate efficiently explained the technique's purpose, discussed specific risks and benefits, checked understanding, provided opportunity for questions all while building rapport in 2 minutes.