

Physical Exam Reference



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Contents

Adults	
Physical Examination of the Respiratory System	
Physical Examination of the Cardiovascular System	5
Physical Examination of the Gastrointestinal System	7
Physical Examination of the Endocrine System	9
Physical Examination of the Nervous System	10
Physical Examination of the Cervical Spine	10
Physical Examination of the Shoulder	11
Physical Examination of the Knee	12
Physical Examination of the thoracic and lumbar spine	13
Mental State Examination	14
Paediatrics	15
Physical Examination of the Neonate	15
First Antenatal Examination	16
Paediatric Examination ENT	16
Paediatric Chest Examination	16

Introduction

This document is designed to be used a reference when assessing physical examination skills for the ACRRM formative miniCEX. The guide is summarised from relevant text books. Physical examinations should be thorough and relevant to the presenting complaint.

Adults

Physical Examination of the Respiratory System

Clinical Examination: A Systematic Guide to Physicians Diagnosis Nicholas Talley and Simon O'Connor

Position Undressed to waist Sitting over side of bed General appearance • dyspnoea • cyanosis • characteristics of cough • sputum • stridor • hoarseness	The trachea
The hands clubbing staining wasting and weakness pulse rate flapping tremor (asterixis)	 Harrison's sulcus kyphosis scoliosis Palpitation expansion vocal fremitus
The face eyes nose – inside and out polyps engorged turbinates deviated septum tongue	Percussion liver dullness cardiac dullness Auscultation breath sounds vocal resonance
 central cyanosis reddened pharynx and tonsillar enlargement rotten or broken teeth sinuses palpitation check transillumination face – general skin red, leathery, wrinkled – smoker plethora cyanosis receding chin, and small pharynx 	The heart Position Lay down patient 45% • measure JVP • examine praecordium The abdomen • palpate liver Other • feet

Physical Examination of the Cardiovascular System Clinical Examination: A Systematic Guide to Physicians Diagnosis

D14	The management was
Position	The praecordium
Lay down patient at 45%	• inspection
General appearance	o scars
respiration rapid, laboured	o skeletal abnormalities
• cachectic	- funnel chest
Marfan's syndrome	kyphoscoliosisscoliosis
Down's syndrome	- scoliosis o surgical abnormalities
Turner's syndrome	- pacemaker
The hands	- cardioverter-defibrillator box
• clubbing	
splinter haemorrhages	palpationapex beat
Osler's nodes	other praecordial impulses
Janeway lesions	 percussion
tendon xanthomata	auscultation
palmar xanthomata	24 1 24 1 11
The arterial pulse, bilateral	o mitral area with bell o mitral area with diaphragm
• rate	o tricuspid area
 brachycardia/ tachycardia 	o pulmonary area
• rhythm	o aortic area
o irregular /delete chaoticregularly	 abnormalities of heart sounds
irregular	- alterations in intensity
 extra beats, frequent or occasional 	- splitting
radiofemoral delay	- extra heart sounds
character and volume	- additional sounds
 alternating strong and weak pulse 	• murmurs
Condition of vessel wall	associated features
o thickening	o timing
o turtuosity	o area of greatness intensity
The blood pressure, bilateral	o loudness and pitch
systolic	o dynamic manoeuvres
diastolic	The neck
pulsus paradoxus	auscultation bruits
Face	The back
 sclerae for jaundice 	lung bases percussion and auscultation
xanthelasma	 pitting oedema of sacrum
mitral facies	The neck
Mouth	carotid artery
	o amplitude
high arched palateteeth diseased or broken	o shape
	o volume
tongue and lips for central cyanosis	 jugular venous pressure (JVP) pulsation
mucosa for petechiae	o lay down patient at 45%
	o good lighting
	o height and character
	abdominojugular reflux test
	1,131 11 1011

The abdomen Position

Patient lying flat with one pillow

- enlarged tender liver
- ascites
- splenomegaly
- · pulsation of abdominal aorta

The lower limbs

- oedema (pitting or non- pitting)
- achilles tendon xanthomata
- cyanosis of toes
- · clubbing of toes
- femoral artery palpitation and auscultation
- palpate
 - o popliteal
 - o posterior tibial
 - o dorsalis pedis
- atrophic skin
- loss of hair
- colour change in feet (red or blue)
- ulcers (venous, diabetic or arterial)
- · reduced capillary return
 - o Buerger's test
- · acute arterial occlusion
- deep venous thrombosis
 - o tenderness and erythema
 - o swelling
 - o dilated superficial veins
 - o warmth
 - o Homan's sign

Physical Examination of the Gastrointestinal System

Clinical Examination: A Systematic Guide to Physicians Diagnosis Nicholas Talley and Simon O'Connor

Position

Patient lying flat one pillow

General Appearance

- jaundice
- · weight and wasting
- skin
 - o pigmentation
 - o acanthosis nigricans
 - o hereditary haemorrahgic teleangiectasia
 - o porphyria cutanea tarda
 - o systemic sclerosis
 - o mental state (encephalopathy)

The hands

- nails
 - o leuconychia
 - o clubbing
- the palms
 - o palmar erythemia
 - o anaemia
 - o dupuytren's contracture
- hepatic flap

The arms

- bruising
- petechiae
- muscle wasting
- scratch marks
- spider naevi
- lymphaenopathy

The face

- jaundice
- anaemia
- Kayser- Fleischer rings
- iritis
- xanthelasma
- periorbital purpura

Salivary glands

- parotid enlargement
- submandibular enlargement

The mouth

- teeth
 - state of teeth
 - o gum hypertrophy
 - o gum pigmentation
 - o ulcers
- breath
 - o fetor
 - fetor hepaticus

- tongue
 - o coating
 - o lingua migra (black tongue)
 - o geographical tongue
 - o leukoplakia
 - o glossitis
 - o macroglossia
- mouth ulcers
 - o aphtous ulceration
 - o angular stomatitis
- candidiasis (monilasis)

The neck and chest

- lymph nodes
- spider naevi
- gynaecomastia

The abdomen

- inspection
 - o scars
 - o distention
 - local swelling
 - o prominent veins
 - o pulsations
 - o visible peristalsis
 - o skin lesions
 - o Sister Joseph nodule
 - o discoloration of umbilicus
 - o striae
 - o asymmetrical movement
- palpitation
 - o examine each region
 - o examine tender area last
 - o light to deep palpitation
 - o guarding
 - o rigidity
 - rebound tenderness
- the liver
 - o liver span
 - hepatomegaly
- the gallbladder
 - o Murphy's sign
- the spleen
- the kidneys

- other abdominal masses
 - o stomach and duodenum
 - o pancreas
 - o aorta
 - o bowel
 - o bladder
 - o inguinal lymph nodes
 - o testes
 - o anterior abdominal wall
- hernias
 - o irreducible
 - o obstructed
 - o strangulated

- percussion
 - o liver
 - o spleen
 - o kidneys
 - o bladder
 - o ascites
 - shifting dullness
 - fluid thrill
- auscultation
 - o bowel sounds
 - o friction rubs
 - o venous hums
 - o bruits

Physical Examination of the Endocrine System Clinical Examination: A Systematic Guide to Physicians Diagnosis Nicholas Talley and Simon O'Connor

0	Manuelle.
General	Mouth
inspect for diagnostic facies or body habitus	protrusion of chin
body weight	enlargement of tongue
height	buccal pigmentation
examine urine	Neck
trousseau's sign (tetany)	protrusion of chin
proximal weakness	enlargement of tongue
	buccal pigmentation
Hands	Chest wall
overall size	hirsutism
length of metacarpals	loss of hair
abnormalities of nails	 reduction breast size (women)
tremor	gynaecomastia (men)
palmar erythemia	nipple pigmentation
sweating palms	Abdomen
• pulse	hirsutism
Axillae	central fat deposition
axillary hair	purple striae
acanthosis	Genitalia
skin tags	virilisation
Eyes	atrophy
• fundi	Legs
Face	diabetic changes
• hirsutism	- Glabelle Glaffyes
fine wrinkled hairless skin	
• greasiness	
• acne	
plethora	

Physical Examination of the Nervous System

Clinical Examination: A Systematic Guide to Physicians Diagnosis Nicholas Talley and Simon O'Connor

General

- handedness
- · conscious level
- neck stiffness
- · Kernig's sign
- dysarthria

Cranial nerves

Position:

Sit over side of bed if possible

General inspection of head and neck

- craniotomy scars
- neurofibromas
- · facial asymmetry
- ptosis
- proptosis
- skew deviation of eyes
- · inequality of pupils
- I smell
- II visual acuity and fields; fundoscopy
- III. IV. VI
- V corneal reflexes
- VII facial muscles
- VIII hearing
- IX, X palate and gag
- XI Trapezius and sternomastoids
- XII tongue

Upper limbs

- motor System
 - o wasting
 - o tremor
 - Ο
 - o tone
 - o power
 - o reflexes)
 - coordination
 - Coordination
 - sensation
 - o pain
 - o temperature
 - o vibration
 - o proprioception
 - o light touch
- · thickened nerves

Lower limbs

- · motor system
 - o tone
 - o power
 - o reflexes
- coordination
- sensation
- saddle region
- back
- gait

Physical Examination of the Cervical Spine

Clinical Orthopaedic Examination: Ronald McRae

Inspection

- · asymmetry in supraclavicular fossae
- torticollis

Palpation

- tenderness
- masses
- prominence of cervical rib with local tenderness
- enlarged cervical lymph nodes
- · enlarged thyroid gland

Movements

- head range flexion and extension
- · head range lateral flexion
- · head range of rotation
- crepitus

- · thoracic outlet syndrome
 - o ischaemia of hand/s
 - o pulse on traction
 - o Adson's test
 - o Roos test
 - o neurological disturbance
- cord compression and cervical myelopathy
- cervical myelopathy
 - o Hoffmann's test
 - o dynamic Hoffmann's test
 - o L'Hermitte's test
 - o inverted radial reflex
 - o clonus
 - o myelopathy hand

Physical Examination of the Shoulder

Clinical Orthopaedic Examination: Ronald McRae

Inspection

- the front
 - o prominent sternoclavicular joint
 - o deformity of clavicle (old fracture)
 - o prominent acromiclavicular joint
 - o deltoid wasting
- the side
 - o swelling of the joint
- from behind
 - o scapulae normally shaped and situated
- from above
 - o swelling of the shoulder
 - o deformity of clavicle
 - o asymmetry of supraclavicular fossae

Palpation

- anterior and lateral aspects glenohumeral ioint
- upper humeral shaft and head via axilla
- acromioclavicular joint
- press below acromion and abduct arm
- · length of clavicle

Movement

- abduction both arms noting:
 - o initiation of abduction
 - o passive abduction if patient unable
 - o smooth
 - o range of movement
 - o pain
 - o hold arm vertical position
 - o lower arm
- · movements restricted
 - fix angle of the scapula and try to abduct arm
 - place one hand on shoulder and swing arm across chest, flexed at elbow
- forward flexion
 - o swing arms forward above head
 - o view range from side
- backwards flexion
 - o swing arms directly backwards
 - o view angle from side
- horizontal flexion and abduction (not routine)

Rotation screening

- place arm behind opposite shoulder blade
- ask patient to draw hand away from back
- place both hands behind neck
- · compare two sides
- pull elbows back gently
- abduct shoulder 90, and flex elbow to right angle
 - patient to lower forearm from horizontal plane
 - o raise hand keeping shoulder at 90
- elbows into sides and flex to 90 with hands forwards
- move hands laterally
- compare two hands
- move hand to chest from facing forward position
- measure shoulder elevation and depression
- screen cervical spine
- crepitus
 - o place hand over shoulder, abduct arm
- rotator cuff
 - o abduction and drop arm test
 - o neer impingement sign
- · anterior glenohumeral instability
 - o apprehension test
 - o relocation test
 - o drawer test of Gerber and Ganz
- · posterior glenohumeral instability
 - o drawer test
 - o jerk test
- · inferior glenohumeral instability
 - o sulcus sign
- biceps tendon instability test
- biceps tendinitis
 - o speed test
- integrity of the long head of biceps
- deltoid power
- suprascapular nerve
 - o supraspinatus
 - o infraspinatus
- long thoracic nerve
 - o lean with both hands against the wall

Physical Examination of the Knee

Clinical Orthopaedic Examination: Ronald McRae

Inspection

- swelling
 - confined to limits of synovial cavity and suprapatellar pouch
 - o extends beyond joint cavity
- lumps
- discoloration
- skin marks
 - o scars
 - o sinus scars
 - o psoriasis
- temperature
 - o knee
 - o foot
- quadriceps
 - o inspect/ measure wasting
 - o examine contracted quads
 - o contracted quads dorsiflex inverted foot
- extension apparatus
 - o patient sitting legs over side of couch
 - o patient extend leg while you hold ankle
 - o feel quads contraction
 - o note position of patella
 - o place finger along upper broader
 - look for gaps and tenderness at other levels
- effusion
 - o inspection
 - o patellar tap test (ballottement test)
 - o fluid displacement test
 - o palpable fluid wave test
- haemarthrosis
- pyarthrosis
- Tenderness
 - o joint line structures
 - o collateral ligaments
 - o tibial tubercle
 - o patellar ligament
 - o femoral condyles
 - Wilson's test

Movements

- extension
 - o full
 - o hyperextension
- flexion
 - range
- genu valgum (knock knee)
 - o unilateral or bilateral
 - o adults
 - o children
- genu varum (bow leg)
- instability
 - o valgus
 - o varus
 - o anterior displacement of tibia
 - o posterior displacement of tibia
 - rotatory
- the menisci
 - o tenderness in joint line
 - o springy block to full extension
 - o oedema
 - o posterior lesions
 - o anterior lesions
 - McMurray manoeuvre for medial meniscus
 - McMurray manoeuvre for lateral meniscus
 - o clicks
 - o Apley's grinding test
 - o meniscal cysts
- the patella
 - o examine knees flexed over couch
 - o tenderness
 - o Q angle
 - o mobility
 - o pain
 - o apprehension test
 - o crepitus
 - o examine popliteal region
 - o examine the hip

Physical Examination of the thoracic and lumbar spine

Clinical Orthopaedic Examination: Ronald McRae

Inspection

- from the side normal posture
 - bend forward
 - stand upright and brace back and shoulders to produce extension
 - o note lumbar curvature
 - o stature
- from behind
 - o café' au lait spots
 - o fat pad or hairy patch
 - o surgical scarring
 - o scoliosis
 - o note hips and shoulder level
- patient sitting
 - o curvature
- bend forward
 - o check leg lengths

Palpation

- sitting leaning forward
- tenderness
 - between spines
 - o over lumbar muscles
 - o sacroiliac joints
 - o renal
 - o higher in spine
- standing
- slide fingers down lumbar spine to sacrum
 - o note any curve irregularity
 - o change in friction

Percussion

- standing bend forward
- · lightly percuss spine root of neck to sacrum

Movements

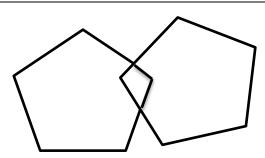
- flexion
- attempt to touch toes
 - $\circ \ \text{smoothness}$
 - o areas of restriction
 - o hip flexion
 - o measure spine when erect and when bent forward
- patient to arch back with support
- patient to slide hands down each side of leg
- patient seated and twist to each side

- suspected prolapsed intervertebral disc
- screen hips
- · straight leg raising test lying down
- straight leg raising sitting
- standing apply pressure to head
- pinch skin at sides
- amount of rotation to produce pain
- tendon reflexes
 - o knee jerk
 - o ankle jerk
- ask patient to dorsiflex both feet
- attempt them into plantarflexion against resistance
- test dorsiflexion holding toes greater and lesser
- test plantarflexion holding toes greater and lesser
- encircle feet with hands, test power of peronei against resistance
- pin prick sensation
 - o dermatomes lower limb
 - o perineal
- suspected thoracic cord compression
 - o abdominal reflexes
- suspected thoracic motor root dysfunction
 - lay down place hands behind head, flex knees and sit up
- suspected ankylosing spondylitis
 - check chest expansion at fourth interspace
- suspected sacroiliac joint involvement
 - o flex hip and knee and forcibly adduct hip
 - o pelvic compression
 - o open out pelvis with thumbs hocked around anterior spines
- abdominal examination
 - rectal or vaginal examination depending on findings
- circulation
 - o peripheral pulses and circulation

Mental State Examination

Clinical Examination: A Systematic Guide to Physicians Diagnosis Nicholas Talley and Simon O'Connor

Orientation	Score	Max
'What is the (year) (season) (date) (day) (month)?' Ask for the date, then specifically ask about the parts omitted (e.g. season).		5
Score 1 point for each correct answer		
'Where are we (country) (state) (town) (hospital) (ward)?' Ask in turn for each place.		_
Score 1 point for each correct answer.		5
Registration 'May I test your memory?' Repeat three objectives (e.g. pen, watch, book).		
Score 1 point for each correct answer.		3
Then repeat until the patient learns all three. Count trials and record up to six. Attention and calculation		
'Count backwards from 100 by sevens.'		
One point for each answer (93, 86, 79, 65)		
Or spell "world" backwards		5
Score 1 point for each letter correct.		
Recall		
Ask patient to recall the three objects in 'registration', above. Score 1 point for each correct answer.		3
Language		
Ask the patient to name two objects shown (e.g. pen, and watch).		
Score 0-2 points.		2
'Repeat the following:" No ifs ands or buts". Score 1 point.		1
Ask the patient to follow a three stage command e.g. 'Take this paper in your right hand, fold it in half and put on the table.'		3
Score 1 point for each step.		
Read and obey the following:		1
Close your eyes. Score 1 point.		
Write a sentence.		
Do not dictate-must be sensible, but punctuation and grammar not essential. Score 1 point.		1
Copy this design (see below)		
All ten angles must be present, and the two must intersect. Score 1 point.		1
TOTAL		/30
Assess patient's level of consciousness along a continuum		
Alert Drowsy Stuporose	Comma	
Scores of 21-29 indicate mild cognitive impairment. Scores below 20 indicate more sever cognitive impairment, and are likely to be due to de if obtained on repeated examinations	ementia, e	specially



Paediatrics

Physical Examination of the Neonate Queensland Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Guideline

Position	Abdomen
effectively prepared for examination	• size
General appearance	• shape
skin colour	symmetry
anomalies	palpate organs
alertness	umbilicus
Growth status	Genitourinary structure
head circumference	• penis
weight	foreskin
length	• testes
plot on centile chart	clitoris
Head/face and neck	labia
• shape	hymen
• size	anus position
fontanelles	passage of urine
• sutures	passage of stool
• eyes	Back
• nose	spinal column
ears-position	• skin
mouth	symmetry of scapulae
palate	symmetry of buttocks
tongue	Hips/legs and feet
• jaw	ortolani's manoeuver
Clavicles/arms and hands	barlow's manoeuver
• length	• leg length
proportion	proportions symmetry
symmetry	digits
• digits	· ·
Chest/cardiorespiratory system	Neurological function
• size	posture
• shape	behaviour
• nipples	movements
heart sounds	muscle tone
heart rate	• cry
• pulses	reflexes (moro, rooting, suck, grasp,
breath sounds	stepping)
respiratory rate	

First Antenatal Examination

Measurements	Breast examination
height	if in early pregnancy
weight	Fundal height/foetal heart rate
• BMI	if appropriate
Cardiovascular	Urinalysis
• pulse	Edinburgh depression scale
blood pressure	 usually will be done in maternity unit
heart sounds	Vaginal examination
Dental review	pap smear if due

Paediatric Examination ENT

Interacts with the child appropriately	Mouth
Ensures child is held in a safe position for the	• lips
examination	gingiva
Ears	teeth
shape/Size/Position pinnae	mucosa
preauricular lesions	tongue
external ear canal	palate
otoscopic examination	pharynx
Nose	tonsils: size/symmetry/exudate
• shape	Neck
• size	shape
position	height
inspection of internal structures	neck vessels
	• masses
	• nodes
	thyroid

Paediatric Chest Examination

General appearance	Heart
chest wall	peripheral pulses
• symmetry	palpation of heart
• shape	Lungs
nipple alignment	Auscultation
breathing pattern	
Breasts	

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