

Embalmer Competencies

The embalmer written exam competencies are outlined in Section 11 (3) of the Embalmers and Funeral Directors Regulations, as follows:

“(3) The embalmer’s written examination shall be composed of questions from the following subjects:

(a) Elementary Anatomy:

The candidate is expected to know the structure of the human body, the principal organs, functions and locations, and the different circulatory systems and muscles;

(b) Embalming:

The candidate is expected to have a thorough knowledge of this subject;

(c) Sanitation and Public Health:

The candidate will be required to have a thorough knowledge of the general disinfection procedures and of the equipment used in the preparation of bodies for burial, also a knowledge of the Act, the Health Protection Act, the rules and regulations regarding the transportation, interment and disinterment of dead human bodies, the operation of receiving vaults and crematoria and the acceptable procedures for the conduct of funerals;

(d) Pathology:

The candidate will be required to have a knowledge of the most common communicable diseases, and the special treatment that must be given bodies of those who have died of such diseases; and

(e) Public Relations and Funeral Procedures”

Clinical embalmer examinations require competencies in the following areas:

Compliance with professional and ethical standards

- Exhibits a professional attitude
- Complies with provincial statutes, regulations, licensing Board policies, Code of Conduct
- Maintains confidentiality of information
- Secures legal documentation required for transfer, burial, and cremation
- Obtains or verifies the identity of the deceased and embalming authorization
- Abides by Occupation Health and Safety standards employed at the funeral home

Demonstrates proper pre-embalming procedures

- Performs pre-embalming procedures and treatments including shaving, sets features, incisions, relieves rigor mortis, removes autopsy sutures, surface preservative treatments, removes surgical – surgical drains, feeding tubes, urinary catheters

- Access and determine preservative demand

Demonstrates knowledge of embalming and accessory chemicals

- Performs a pre-embalming case analysis and determines the preservative demand for each preparation room case
- Selects embalming and accessory chemicals
- Sets the pressure and rate of flow
- Determine if preservation has occurred

Demonstrates proper embalming procedures

- Performs embalming and restorative procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed mentor
- Wears proper protective equipment and employs universal precautions
- Employs proper positioning
- Performs primary disinfection
- Disinfects preparation room, embalming instruments and equipment, following each case

Demonstrates proper autopsy, embalming, and restorative procedures

- Selects and raises vessels for injection and drainage
- Performs embalming treatments – injection, drainage, massage, autopsy aspiration
- Performs cavity aspiration and treatment
- Litigates vessels and sutures incisions

Demonstrates an ability to perform post-embalming restorative procedures

- Performs post-embalming treatments – disinfection, hypodermic treatment, treats orifices, trims and grooms nails, performs hair removal, hair restoration and styling, excises tumours, removes medical devices
- Disposes of bio-hazardous waste
- Removes medical implants (with prior approval)

Demonstrates ability to apply cosmetics

- Applies cosmetics

Demonstrates proper dressing and casketing procedures

- Participates in the dressing, casketing of the deceased for viewing and preparation for shipping

Demonstrates case documentation procedures

- Completes a statistical case report form for every embalming procedure
- Completes a practicum report form for every preparation room procedure