



THE SOCIETY FOR  
VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Practical Examination for the Accreditation of Vascular Scientists

Dear Mari Murumets,

**Re: SVT Practical Exam – Nia Steeves**

Thank you for agreeing to be the external examiner for the above candidate's practical examination. The candidate should arrange, with yourself and the internal assessor, a mutually convenient date for the assessment which is usually carried out at the candidates own place of work.

As you will be aware, the candidate has successfully passed the Society's theory modules in Vascular Technology and Physics and the practical examination constitutes the final test before the candidate can become an Accredited Vascular Scientist. The role of the examiner in this practical exam is to pass judgement on the professionalism and competency of the applicant, adhering to the 'Guidelines for Practical Exam Assessors' (see attached).

You can expect the whole examination to take about 4-5 hours. The candidate might spend slightly more time on the scans on exam day than they would on a normal scanning day, therefore it is not recommended to book patients for the exam who are under time constraints i.e. patients returning to an outpatient one-stop clinic.

The practical exam consists of 3 patient examinations (please see appendices 3-6 of the accreditation document for the scope of the scan) and a *viva voce*.

- A bilateral carotid and vertebral duplex examination (from Core Modality 1 – Carotid duplex)
- A single full-leg (aorta-ankle, even if this is not in their local protocol) arterial duplex (from Core Modality 2 - Peripheral arterial duplex)
- A single full-leg (groin-ankle, even if this is not in their local protocol) varicose vein and deep vein scan (from Core Modality 3 - Peripheral venous duplex)
- Viva Voce – covering clinical protocols, understanding of machine and service development.

Please find attached:

- Guidelines for practical exam assessors
- Practical exam score sheet (please print a copy)
- Expense claim form

N.B. the SVT will reimburse expenses for transportation to and from the exam site, i.e. standard class train fare, and for accommodation if overnight stay is required due to the distance to travel for exam

Before the assessment date:

- Familiarise yourself fully with the exam score sheet and the guidelines for practical exam assessors.
- Ensure that the candidate's protocols have been received and reviewed along with copies of scan reports.
- Familiarise yourself with the candidate's protocols.

Please note that examiners retain the right to raise questions about fundamental errors of practice. Any such serious concerns should be indicated on the score sheet and forwarded for consideration by the education committee. To facilitate this, the result is not made known on the day, but the candidate will be informed, by post, within two weeks.

Please also note that in case the candidate fails the practical it has been agreed that the same examiners should be contacted if the candidate re-applies, not unless due to unavoidable circumstances then we will find another examiner.

Prior to the exam day you will need to review the candidate's last 25 scan reports in each of the core modalities. This is to enable you to familiarise yourself with the style of reporting that the candidate's department use. It will also help you identify any concerns with their style of reporting prior to the examination day. Other things to check are to see if the candidate is reporting inline with local protocols and to ensure their reporting is compliant with the requirements outlined in our basic guidelines. On the exam day you will also need to review their evidence of work experience in the form of files / logbooks / diaries etc (as specified in the practical application information).

As the external examiner, please take responsibility for returning both sets of examination sheets to me. Please keep receipts for any expenses you may incur and send these with a completed expense form to the treasurer.

It just remains for me to thank you, on behalf of the Society, for giving your time and valuable experience to promote the next generation of Vascular Scientists.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah

Ms Hannah Williamson  
Practical Exam Co-officer

SVT Education Committee  
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