

NEUROLOGY ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER CLINICAL COMPETENCIES



The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) supports team-based care models, of which neurology advanced practices providers (APP) are a vital component. The following is a guide of clinical competencies that neurology APPs should complete by the end of their onboarding period into a neurology practice. Practices and academic departments should add to and adapt this checklist, depending on their practice setting and type and in compliance with their state's scope of practice regulations.

Employee Name: _____

Preceptor Name: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Clinical Competency	Date	Complete (or N/A)
General Neurology		
Perform and record history and physical and initial consultation		
Perform the following neurologic exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Detailed, comprehensive neurologic examination and focused neurologic exam including ophthalmological examDemonstrate ability to distinguish normal from abnormal exam findingsDescribe/document normal and abnormal examination findings		
Perform the following cognitive screening assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mini-Mental Status Examination® (MMSE)Montreal Cognitive Assessment® (MoCA)Other tests as applicable (SLUMS, RBANS, etc.)		
Patient Diagnoses and Care		
Review indications for procedures to be performed by the APP		
Provide care for neurology patients with the following diagnoses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Brain and Spine TraumaCognitive and Behavioral DisordersDemyelinating and Immunologic DisordersDevelopmental and Congenital DisordersEpilepsy and Episodic DisordersHeadache and Pain DisordersMovement DisordersNeuromuscular DisordersNeuro-oncologic and Paraneoplastic DisordersNeuro-ophthalmologic and Neuro-otologic DisordersSleep DisordersStroke and Other Vascular ConditionsToxic, Metabolic, and Nutritional Disease		
Review and initiate power plans for stroke with and without thrombolytics, and for endovascular therapy		
Order and adjust medications appropriately		
Communication and Documentation		
Document all patient encounters appropriately and within time expectations		
Communicate with physicians and other providers of record to enhance patient care		
Provide education and updates to patients and families		
Write appropriate consultation for physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and other services		

Clinical Competency	Date	Complete (or N/A)
Communication and Documentation Continued		
Review frequency and indications of patient case and review with physicians in the practice		
Consult list of indications for referrals and provider referrals		
Demonstrate appropriate documentation of obtaining informed consent		
Review terms for terminating a patient relationship with the practice		
Assist with daily rounds		
Write daily progress notes		
Prepare patient for discharge		
Arrange for appropriate outpatient follow-up clinic visits		
Dictate discharge summary		
Review, Interpretation, and Ordering of Tests		
CT scan		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge on the indications for CT imaging of the brain and spine, CTA of the head and neck, CTV of the head • Develop the ability to locate and identify major neuroanatomic structures • Demonstrate the ability to locate and identify major arteries of extracranial and intracranial circulation • Develop the ability to identify and properly describe the appearance and location of abnormal findings 		
Cerebral Angiogram		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe common clinical indications for ordering cerebral angiogram • Demonstrate the ability to interpret findings from a cerebral angiogram and differentiate normal from abnormal findings 		
Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Angiography, Venography (MRI/MRA/MRV)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge on the indications for MRI of the brain and spine, MRA of the head and neck, MRV of the head • Develop the ability to identify and describe the differences in appearance of commonly scanned tissues in DWI, ADC, GRE, T1-weighted, T2-weighted, and FLAIR MRI images • Develop the ability to differentiate normal anatomy from abnormal anatomy • Develop the ability to identify and properly describe the appearance and location of abnormal findings in common brain and cerebrovascular diseases • Demonstrate the ability to locate and identify major arteries of extracranial and intracranial circulation • Demonstrate the ability to locate and identify major intracranial venous sinuses • Demonstrate the ability to locate and identify vertebrae of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine • Demonstrate the ability to identify and properly describe the appearance and location of abnormal findings in common spine diseases 		
Chest X-Ray		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe common clinical indications for ordering chest x-ray • Demonstrate the ability to interpret a chest x-ray and differentiate normal from abnormal findings 		

Clinical Competency	Date	Complete (or N/A)
Review, Interpretation, and Ordering of Tests Continued		
Electroencephalogram (EEG)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the methods of performing an EEG study • Describe the role of EEG in diagnosis and management of seizures • Describe common clinical indications for ordering EEGs 		
Electromyography (EMG) / Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the method of performing EMG/NCS • Describe common clinical indications for ordering EMG/NCS 		
Electrocardiogram (EKG)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe common clinical indications for ordering EKG • Demonstrate the ability to interpret an EKG and differentiate normal from abnormal findings 		
Interventional Radiology (IR)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge and skills in the ordering and interpretation of interventional radiology tests commonly used in the evaluation of patients with neurologic disorders 		
Laboratory tests		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge and skills in the ordering and interpretation of diagnostic labs commonly used in the evaluation of patients with neurologic disorders 		
Lumbar Puncture		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe common clinical indications for ordering a lumbar puncture • Demonstrate the ability to perform lumbar puncture • Demonstrate ability to differentiate normal from abnormal findings 		