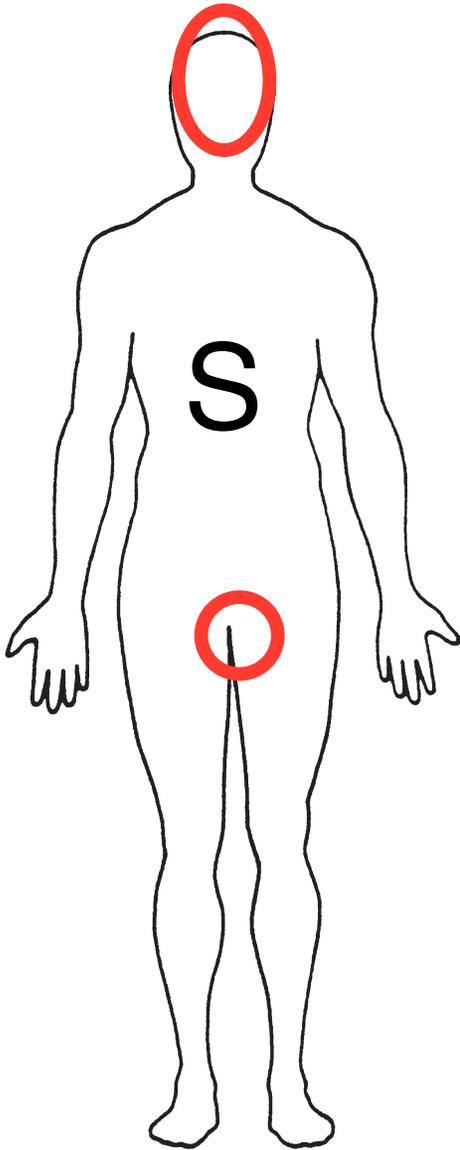# Mock Oral Candidate Note Sheet Tips

Below you see the actual sheet that has been used on the ABEM oral exam. This sheet is very similar to the one provided for the Mock Oral Exam. This exam will be much easier if you develop a standardized approach to each patient so you are not leaving out important information. In the real world, simple things like vital signs or physical exam findings are often handed to you or visualized while examining the patient. This is not always the case in the oral exam. You may get partial or incomplete sets of vitals and you will have to ask for a full set of vitals. In the sheet below I have marked some things I find useful when taking the oral exam.

1. **Five lines for a full set of vitals-** BP, RR, HR, O2 sat, temperature. Sometimes you are only given a partial set of vital signs. Make sure to ask for a FULL SET of vital signs on each patient. If not you could easily miss a diagnosis or start your workup down the wrong path.
2. **SAMPLE History-** I find it useful to write down a brief synopsis of the patients medical problems. In particular the SAMPLE history is useful because it is succinct and covers your bases in terms of getting "points" for most patients. In addition it prevents you from leaving out important details like allergies that are often overlooked during the pressure of the exam.
3. **Orders-** Writing down orders has two benefits. First it helps you make sure that you are not forgetting something important in your medical workup. Second it can be used as a list to check off the results that are given to you by the examiner.
4. **Marks on the Human Figure-** I always forget the Neuro exam, genital exam, and the dermatologic exam when I do a mock oral. So it helps me remember them if I circle the head, the groin, and put a big S on the chest. Whether or not you will needs this depends on your style. Another important use of the figure is to mark off pertinent physical exam findings.

CANDIDATE NOTES

S

O

Ordered Tests

Vitals go here

S
A
M
P
L
E