Biofeedback Essential Skills Check List

A beginning biofeedback practitioner should be able to demonstrate mastery of the following basic skills, as attested by their BCIA-approved Mentor who will initial each item as complete.

**Blood Volume Pulse**

_____ Explain the blood volume pulse signal and biofeedback to a client.

_____ Explain PPG sensor attachment to a client, and obtain permission to monitor him or her.

_____ Explain how to select a placement site and demonstrate how to attach a PPG sensor to minimize light and movement artifacts.

_____ Perform a tracking test by asking your client to raise the monitored hand above the heart and then lower the hand.

_____ Identify common artifacts in the raw PPG signal, especially movement, and explain how to control for them and remove them from the raw data.

_____ Explain the major measures of heart rate variability, including HR Max - HR Min, pNN50, SDNN, and SDRR.

_____ Explain why we train clients to increase power in the low frequency band of the ECG and how breathing at 5-7 breaths per minute helps them accomplish this.

_____ Demonstrate how to instruct a client to utilize a feedback display.

_____ Describe strategies to help clients increase their heart rate variability.

_____ Demonstrate an HRV biofeedback training session, including record keeping, goal setting, site selection, baseline measurement, display and threshold setting, coaching, and debriefing at the end of the session.

_____ Demonstrate how to select and assign a practice assignment based on training session results.

_____ Evaluate and summarize client/patient progress during a training session.

**EMG**

_____ Explain the EMG and biofeedback to a client.

_____ Explain skin preparation and electrode placement to a client, and obtain permission to monitor him or her.

_____ Explain how to protect the client from infection transmitted by the sensor.
Identify active- and reference-electrode placements using a marking pencil for bilateral cervical paraspinal, frontalis, masseter, sternocleidomastoid, and trapezius sites.

Demonstrate skin preparation and electrode placement.

Measure electrode impedance for each active-reference electrode pair and ensure that impedance is sufficiently low and balanced.

Perform a tracking test for your placement, instructing the client to contract and then relax the monitored muscle.

Identify common artifacts in the raw EMG signal, including 50/60Hz, bridging, ECG, loose electrode, movement, and radio frequency, and explain how to control for them and remove them from the raw data.

Demonstrate how to instruct a client to utilize a feedback display.

Demonstrate a surface EMG biofeedback training session, including record keeping, goal setting, site selection, bilateral and unilateral recording, and bandpass selection, baseline measurement, display and threshold setting, coaching, and debriefing at the end of the session.

Demonstrate how to select and assign a practice assignment based on training session results.

Evaluate and summarize client progress during a training session.

**Heart Rate**

Explain the ECG signal and biofeedback to a client.

Explain ECG sensor attachment to a client, and obtain permission to monitor him or her.

Explain how to select a placement site and demonstrate how to attach ECG sensors to minimize movement artifact.

Demonstrate skin preparation.

Perform a tracking test by asking your client to slowly inhale and then exhale as you watch the change in heart rate.

Identify movement artifact in the raw ECG signal, and explain how to control movement and remove this artifact from the raw data.

Explain the major measures of heart rate variability, including HR Max - HR Min, pNN50, SDNN, and SDRR.

Explain why we train clients to increase power in the low frequency band of the ECG and how breathing at 5-7 breaths per minute helps them accomplish this.
Demonstrate how to instruct a client to utilize a feedback display.

Describe strategies to help clients increase their heart rate variability.

Demonstrate an HRV biofeedback training session, including record keeping, goal setting, site selection, baseline measurement, display and threshold setting, coaching, and debriefing at the end of the session.

Demonstrate how to select and assign a practice assignment based on training session results.

Evaluate and summarize client progress during a training session.

Respiration

Explain the respiration signal, healthy breathing, and biofeedback to a client.

Explain sensor attachment to a client, and obtain permission to monitor him or her.

Explain how to select a placement site and demonstrate how to attach a respiration sensor to the chest and abdomen. Show how to monitor the accessory muscles to measure breathing effort.

Perform a tracking test asking your client to take a slow, deep breath.

Identify breath holding, gasping, and movement artifact in the respiration signal, and how to remove them from the raw data.

Explain how to identify clavicular breathing, excessive breathing effort, reverse breathing, and thoracic breathing.

Explain how posture and clothing can affect breathing.

Demonstrate how to find your client's resonance frequency and explain why this is important.

Demonstrate how to instruct a client to utilize a breathing pacer and the feedback display.

Discuss strategies for slowing down your client's breathing toward 5-7 breaths per minute.

Demonstrate a respiratory biofeedback training session, including record keeping, goal setting, site selection, baseline measurement, display and threshold setting, coaching, and debriefing at the end of the session.

Demonstrate how to select and assign a practice assignment based on training session results.

Evaluate and summarize client progress during a training session.
Skin Conductance/Skin Potential

- Explain the SC/SP signal and biofeedback to a client.
- Explain sensor attachment to a client, and obtain permission to monitor him or her.
- Explain how to select a placement site and demonstrate how to attach a sensor to minimize movement artifact.
- Explain how to protect the client from infection transmitted by the sensor.
- Perform a tracking test by asking your client to take 3 quick breaths.
- Identify common artifacts in the raw SC/SP signal, including movement and respiration, and explain how to control for them and remove them from the raw data.
- Demonstrate how to instruct a client to utilize a feedback display.
- Demonstrate an electrodermal biofeedback training session, including record keeping, goal setting, site selection, baseline measurement, display and threshold setting, coaching, and debriefing at the end of the session.
- Demonstrate how to select and assign a practice assignment based on training session results.
- Evaluate and summarize client progress during a training session.

Temperature

- Explain the temperature signal and biofeedback to a client.
- Explain thermistor attachment to a client, and obtain permission to monitor him or her.
- Explain how to select a placement site and demonstrate how to attach a thermistor to minimize blanketing, movement, and stem artifacts.
- Perform a tracking test by asking your client to blow on the thermistor bead.
- Identify common artifacts in the raw temperature signal, including draft and movement, and explain how to control for them and remove them from the raw data.
- Demonstrate how to instruct a client to utilize a feedback display.
- Describe strategies to help clients with cold hands, who warm very slowly, or who cool when they attempt to warm their hands.
Demonstrate a temperature biofeedback training session, including record keeping, goal setting, site selection, whether to record bilaterally or unilaterally, baseline measurement, display and threshold setting, coaching, and debriefing at the end of the session.

Demonstrate how to select and assign a practice assignment based on training session results.

Evaluate and summarize client progress during a training session.

I attest that this work has been completed for: ________________________________.

Name of Candidate for BCIA Certification

Signature of the Mentor: ________________________________ Date: ______________

Printed Name of Mentor: ________________________________ BCIA #: _____________

If using more than 1 mentor, please make copies of this document for each mentor to complete.