

2010 Recertification Guide

*Nuclear Pharmacy
Nutrition Support Pharmacy
Oncology Pharmacy
Pharmacotherapy
Psychiatric Pharmacy*

*Application Deadline-
August 1, 2010*

Test Date- October 2, 2010



Thank you for your interest in becoming recertified in your chosen field of specialty practice. As the delivery of health care becomes more sophisticated and more complex, there is a concomitant need for pharmacy to identify practitioners who are qualified to meet these challenges. The recognition of areas of specialized practice and the certification of pharmacist specialists go a long way towards assuring society that its pharmaceutical care needs are being properly addressed.

For nearly 35 years, the Board of Pharmacy Specialties has provided specialty-level certification programs for pharmacists – both nationally and internationally. The founding of BPS by APhA in 1976 resulted from a five-year effort during which the entire profession studied and deliberated the issue of specialization in pharmacy. Nuclear pharmacy, nutrition support pharmacy, oncology pharmacy, pharmacotherapy and psychiatric pharmacy exist today as bona fide specialties due to ongoing collaborative efforts by all segments of the profession. A sixth BPS Specialty Ambulatory Care Pharmacy is currently under development and is scheduled to be available in 2011. BPS will continue to develop new specialties to meet the needs of the public and the profession.

The Board, with assistance from several professional organizations and their members, has continued to provide vital leadership and support for the recognition of specialties and the certification of pharmacist specialists. As a result, BPS and its Specialty Councils are now the principal entities through which these activities are carried out for the pharmacy profession. Each of the Specialty Councils works diligently with test development consultants to ensure that the entire certification process is psychometrically sound and legally defensible. BPS is also working with its strategic partner organizations to promote the value of specialty recognition and certification to the profession, other health care professionals, employers, and the public.

Quality pharmacist care requires a cadre of well-trained, experienced, and motivated pharmacists. Your interest in specialty certification illustrates your commitment to advancing our profession. BPS salutes your interest and commitment to quality patient care. The American public requires nothing less of our profession.



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Executive Director

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The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) is an autonomous division of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), founded in January 1976 to recognize specialties and certify pharmacists in specialized areas of pharmacy practice

BPS 2010

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Board of Pharmacy Specialties

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) is an independent non-governmental certification body that provides recognition of persons involved in the advanced practice of pharmacy specialties. BPS was created on January 5, 1976 by the American Pharmaceutical Association (now the American Pharmacists Association, APhA), and exists today as an autonomous division of APhA.

The Board is composed of eight pharmacists, five of whom represent BPS specialty practices, two health care professionals other than pharmacists and one public member. The Executive Director and one member of the Board of Trustees are non-voting Board members, ex officio.

BPS establishes a Specialty Council for each recognized specialty. Specialty Councils work with the Board to develop and administer psychometrically sound and legally defensible certification processes, consistent with public policy regarding the credentialing of health care professionals. A Specialty Council is composed of six pharmacists practicing in the specialty area and three other pharmacists.

The Five Point Purpose of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties Certification Program:

- A. To grant recognition of appropriate pharmacy practice specialties based on criteria established by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties
- B. To establish standards for certification and recertification of pharmacists in recognized pharmacy practice specialties
- C. To grant qualified pharmacists certification and recertification in recognized pharmacy practice specialties
- D. To serve as a coordinating agency and informational clearing house for organizations and pharmacists in recognized pharmacy specialties
- E. To enhance public/consumer protection by developing effective certification programs for specialty practices in pharmacy

Importance of Certification

The primary purpose of specialization in any health care profession is to improve the quality of care individual patients receive, to promote positive treatment outcomes, and ultimately, to improve the patient's quality of life. Specialties evolve in response to the development of new knowledge or technology that can affect patient care. The rapid, dramatic advancement in drug therapy in recent decades has created a clear need for pharmacy practitioners who specialize in specific kinds of treatment and aspects of care. Specialty certification is a responsible, progressive initiative from the profession to try to ensure the best possible patient care.

Board certification has allowed more pharmacists to participate in collaborative drug therapy management which is a significant value to patients. Pharmacists certified in a specialty are frequently sought for professional consultations. As the contributions of pharmacists become more recognized we anticipate greater recognition from Medicare and Medicaid along with private payers. Employers and patients can feel secure in knowing that the Board certified pharmacist has taken the initiative to seek advanced specialized training that sets them apart.

Certification can also provide a personal reward for pharmacist specialists. Preparing for the certification exam offers an opportunity to increase advanced, specialized knowledge in the practice area. Specialty certification is a means of informing other professionals of the individual's educational and practice accomplishments, setting the specialist apart from colleagues. It is one way to demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills independent of, and in addition to, a degree program or license. Many certificants have reported enhanced respect from colleagues in other health care professions. Others tell of a "competitive edge" in applying for jobs. Many pharmacist specialists certified by BPS have also reported increased salaries or one-time bonuses. Still others have received payment from third party payers because their skills and knowledge are validated through certification.

Health care organizations have documented many cases in which the services of certified pharmacist specialists may have contributed in large measure to tangible results, including:

- Optimal use of drugs;
- Substantial reduction in adverse drug reactions;
- Fewer complications related to drug treatment;
- Shorter hospital stays (resulting in lower hospital costs);
- Reduced morbidity and mortality;
- Reduced unnecessary medication use (resulting in lower drug costs);
- Improved laboratory monitoring of drug therapy; and
- Improved patient satisfaction.

Recognition of BPS Certification

BPS-certified pharmacist specialists are recognized for their advanced level of knowledge, skills, and achievement by many government agencies and educational organizations.

Following are examples of specific benefits that may be realized by BPS-certified pharmacist specialists:

- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: specialists may be recognized as Authorized Nuclear Pharmacists
- U.S. Department of Defense: specialists may receive bonus pay
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: specialists may serve at a higher pay step
- U.S. Public Health Service: specialists may receive bonus pay
- New Mexico and North Carolina State Boards of Pharmacy: specialists may apply for specified prescribing privileges
- Many schools/colleges of pharmacy award advanced placement in non-traditional PharmD programs on an individual basis and may recognize BPS certification in this process.
- Increasing numbers of employers are recognizing BPS-certified specialists with monetary reward or promotion/hiring preference.

RECERTIFICATION

This Guide is intended for use by BPS-certified pharmacists who are interested in being recertified. It provides information on BPS recertification processes: eligibility requirements, application procedures, examination administration, and annual registration.

This document is **ONLY A GUIDE**. The information, procedures, and fees detailed in this publication may be amended, revised, or otherwise altered at any time and without advance notice by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. The provision of this Guide does not confer any rights upon an applicant. The information contained in this Guide supersedes information contained in all previous editions of the BPS Candidate's Guide.

Those who indicate that they wish to recertify by examination will be sent an addendum to this Guide that contains specific information on the recertification examination.

Recertification assures the public and the profession that certified practitioners undergoes periodic evaluation. The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) requires all board-certified specialists to recertify every seven years. If a BPS certified specialist does not apply for recertification, the individual will be removed from the official roster of board of certified specialists. If a certified pharmacist fails to successfully complete the recertification process, extension of certification may be granted for a one-year period, at the sole discretion of the Board, while the individual seeks to successfully complete the process.

If a certified pharmacist does not elect to continue the process to its completion, then the individual will be permanently removed from the BPS roster. Once a BPS-certified specialist has been deleted permanently from the roster, that individual may no longer use the designation or initials associated with that specialty

(e.g., Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacists, BCNP) nor display the BPS certificate. Once removed permanently from the roster,

reinstatement can be achieved only by the successful completion of the entire certification process.

All correspondence and requests for information concerning the administration of BPS specialty certification and recertification examinations should be directed to:

Board of Pharmacy Specialties
2215 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 2003
●Tel: (202) 429-7591 ●Fax: (202)429-6304
●bps@aphanet.org ●www.bpsweb.org

It is the candidate's responsibility to submit a fully completed application by the stated postmark deadline of **August 1**. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the indicated deadline may be returned to candidates without being processed. The application fee may be paid by check, money order, or credit card (VISA, MasterCard, and American Express). Purchase orders will NOT be accepted.

Non Discrimination Policy

BPS endorses the principles of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination. BPS does not discriminate with regard to age, sex, ethnic origin, race, religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other category protected by federal or state law.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties complies with the relevant provisions of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you have a disability and require accommodations under this Act during the certification examination, please complete and submit the "Accommodation Request Form". All application forms and requests for accommodations must be postmarked no later than **August 1**.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

General Information

Application materials are available upon request from BPS. They may also be downloaded from the BPS web site www.bpsweb.org

All applications and questions pertaining to BPS recertification process should be directed to the Board as noted below. BPS office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm (Eastern Time). The BPS office is closed on all federal holidays.

Applications may be submitted by facsimile (fax) with payment charged to a valid credit card account (VISA, MasterCard, or American Express). Purchase orders will NOT be accepted. A faxed copy of a check is not acceptable. Do not mail a hard copy of an application transmitted by facsimile.

It is the candidate's responsibility to submit an application that is completely and accurately filled out. Incomplete applications will not be processed. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the application is submitted by the postmark deadline of August 1. All applications are processed within 20 working days receipt. Candidates who wish to recertify using BPS-approved continuing education programs MUST submit their application by the **August 1** deadline. CE hours for recertification may continue to be earned through the end of the calendar year for credit toward recertification. Providers of BPS-approved continuing education programs report all CE hours for recertification directly to BPS.

PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

All applicants will be notified by postal mail or email of their eligibility to sit for the examination within 20 working days of BPS' receipt of their application and fee. If for any reason an application is rejected, the entire fee is refunded and the application and all documentation are returned to the applicant along with a letter explaining why the application was not accepted.

Incomplete applications may be returned to candidates by mail without being processed. For those sitting for a recertification examination an Admission Permit will be mailed at least two weeks prior to the examination date.

This permit notes the candidate's name and address as they appear in the official BPS files, Candidate Number, testing site and room name, and starting time for the examination site to gain admission to the testing room. If an application has not received the admission permit at least 5 days before the examination, BPS should be notified immediately by phone at (202)429-7591 or email: bps@aphanet.org

FEES AND PAYMENT METHODS

Fee Payments

Payments are made in US dollars by **check, cashier's check, or money order** made payable to Board of Pharmacy Specialties, or by **credit card** (VISA, MasterCard, American Express). Purchase orders can NOT be accepted.

Recertification Fee

The fee for recertification is four hundred dollars (\$400).

Declined Credit Cards and Returned Checks

When a credit card transaction is declined you may submit an alternate credit card for processing. When a check is returned for non-sufficient funds payment must be sent by certified check or money order for the amount due. BPS reserves the right to charge fees incurred as a result of a check returned for insufficient funds.

Forfeiture of Fees/ No Refunds

Candidates who fail to arrive at the Testing Centers on the date and time that they are scheduled for examination will forfeit their examination fees and must re-register by contacting BPS. Examination fees may NOT be transferred to another date. Candidates arriving more than 15 minutes late for an examination will not be admitted, and will forfeit their examination fee.

The recertification fee helps cover the costs of the development and administration of recertification processes and the ongoing operations of the Board and its Specialty Councils. All fees are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Board

Examination Information

Those who indicate that they wish to recertify by examination will be sent an addendum to this Guide that contains specific information on the recertification examination.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

Candidates seeking recertification who believe that they will not be able to sit for the recertification examination on the scheduled date or who believe that they will not be able to complete all required CE by December 31 of the year in which they are to recertify, may request an extension of their certification status. *This request must be in writing, must provide specific reasons for not being able to sit for the examination or to meet the December 31 deadline for CE, and must be received by BPS by December 31 of the year in which the candidate is to recertify. A recertification application form and the \$400 recertification fee must be submitted prior to or with this request for extension.*

All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Board may grant a one-year extension on a one-time only basis. No additional extension will be granted beyond this one-year period. All recertification requirements must be completed by the end of the one-year extension or that individual's certification will lapse and his/her name will be removed from the official roster of BPS-certified pharmacist specialists.

If the certificant is recertifying using a professional development program, sufficient progress must be demonstrated to indicate that completion will be possible before the end of the one-year extension. Such an extension results in resetting of the certificant's next recertification date by one year to seven years from the end of the extension.

It is the responsibility of the provider of the CE program to report hours/credits earned in the program directly to BPS in electronic form within 30 days after the end of each calendar year, for entry into the BPS certificant database.

If there are subcontractors to the provider, the provider must consolidate all of their reports into this one consolidated annual report of each certificant's credits.

When recertification is accomplished through a continuing professional development program for any specialty, all hours creditable to a specific 7-year recertification period must be earned within that period. Credit hours may not be carried over from one 7-year period to the next.

The "due date" of a professional development program which is established by its provider determines the year the program is creditable, regardless of when it is completed and submitted by the certificant. For example, a program due on January 20 of a particular year will only be credited for that year, even if it was submitted to the provider in December of the previous year.

If no requests for extension is received by BPS and the candidate fails to appear for the examination or fails to achieve the required amount of CE from a BPS-approved program by December 31, that individual's certification will lapse and his/her name will be removed from the official roster of BPS-certified pharmacist specialists. Once certification has lapsed, reinstatement can be achieved only by the successful completion of the entire certification process.

NAME AND/OR ADDRESS CHANGE

It is the responsibility of each certified pharmacist specialists to promptly notify BPS, in writing, or any changes in his/her name or address. Notification for admission to the examination, mailing of test results, maintenance of certified status and renewal of certification depends on the Board having current information.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION

All BPS-certified pharmacists are required to register annually with the Board and pay an annual fee, currently \$100. An invoice for the annual fee is mailed in the spring. No annual fee is charged in the year in which a BPS-certified pharmacist specialist is to recertify

Failure to pay the annual fee by the end of the calendar year results in removal of the individual's name from the BPS' official list of certified pharmacists until the fee is paid. This list of BPS-certified specialists "in good standing" is published on the Board's web site. Upon applying for recertification, all outstanding annual fees and a 5% penalty must be paid.

Along with their annual fee payments, BCNPs are requested to submit a form documenting their practice activities in nuclear pharmacy during the past year. BCNSPs are requested to submit documentation of continuing education hours in nutrition support during the past year, along with their annual fee. This documentation is relevant to recertification requirements for each specialty.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

Those who indicate they wish to recertify by examination will be sent an addendum to this Guide that contains specific information on the recertification examination.

Approved BPS Professional Development Programs for Recertification

Please contact the following lead organizations for further information

Pharmacotherapy and Oncology Pharmacy
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
Tel (913)429-3391 Fax (913)492-0088
www.accp.com

Nuclear Pharmacy
University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy
Office of Continuing Pharmacy Education
Tel (505) 250-0174 Fax(505)272-6749
<http://hsc.unm.edu/pharmacy/continuinged.shtm>

Psychiatric Pharmacy

College of Psychiatric and Neurologic
Pharmacists
Tel (402)476-1677 Fax (402)476-1677
www.cnp.org

BPS SPECIALTIES

NUCLEAR PHARMACY

Nuclear Pharmacy seeks to improve and promote the public health through the safe and effective use of radioactive drugs for diagnosis and therapy. A nuclear pharmacist, as a member of the nuclear medicine, specializes in the procurement, compounding, quality control testing, dispensing, distribution, and monitoring of radiopharmaceuticals. In addition, the nuclear pharmacist provides consultation regarding health and safety issues as well as the use of non-radioactive drugs and patient care. Those who are granted certification in this specialty may use the designation Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacists and the initials BCNP, as long as certification is valid.

Recertification Requirements:

Recertification for Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacists BCNP is a three step process:

- **Self-evaluation:** Review of the Content Outline for the specialty certification examination, with a focus on nuclear pharmacy practice activities/functions that have changed since initial certification or last recertification.
- **Peer review:** Documentation of nuclear pharmacy practice activities over the seven year certification period, which are then reviewed by the Specialty Council on Nuclear Pharmacy.
- **Formal Assessment:** This assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills will be accomplished through one or two methods: 1) achieving a passing score on the 100-item, multiple choice objective recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination; OR 2) or earning a defined number of hours of continuing education provided by a professional development program approved by BPS.

All candidates for recertification must have a current active license to practice pharmacy.

As part of the recertification process, every BCNP is asked to complete an annual practice report form provided by BPS. The information is compiled by BPS at the beginning of the recertification process and sent to the BCNP for verification and updating. At the time of recertification, the BCNP is also required to certify that (s) he is not currently under suspension by either the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission or a State Radiation Control Organization.

Option One: Examination

(Refer to the Nuclear Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

Domain 1: Drug Order Provision (66% of the examination)

- **Subdomain A: Procurement** (8% of the examination)
- **Subdomain B: Compounding** (26% of the examination)
- **Subdomain C: Quality Assurance** (9% of the examination)
- **Subdomain D: Dispensing** (23% of the examination)

Domain 2: Health and Safety (24% of the examination)

Domain 3: Drug Information Provision (10% of the examination)

Option Two: Continuing Education

The continuing education option for recertification was implemented in 1966 with BPS' designation of the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy's Correspondence Continuing Education Courses for Nuclear Pharmacists, beginning with Volume V, as an acceptable professional development program.

A BCNP recertifying in 2002 and thereafter are required to earn 70 hours over the seven-year certification period. At least 30 of these hours MUST be earned within the last three years of the certification period. The reason for this stipulation is to assure the public and the profession that a certified specialist's knowledge and skills are up-to-date when recertification is granted. There are no other restrictions as to which lessons in which years may be used to obtain the required number of hours, other than

the lesson must have been issued in 1996 or thereafter (Volume V or later Volumes).

NUTRITION SUPPORT PHARMACY

Nutrition support pharmacy addresses the care of patients who receive specialized nutrition support, including parenteral and enteral nutrition. The nutrition support pharmacist has responsibility for promoting maintenance and/or restoration of optimal nutritional status, designing and modifying treatment according to the needs of the patient. The nutrition support pharmacist has responsibility for direct patient care and often functions as a member of a multidisciplinary nutrition support team. Those who are granted certification in this specialty may use the designation Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist and the initials BCNSP, as long as certification is valid.

Recertification Requirements

Recertification for Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacists (BCNSP) is based on the following activities

- Earning a minimum of 3.0 continuing education units (CEU) in nutrition support with no less than 1.0 CEU earned every two years. These CEU must be from providers approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). *NOTE: 1.0 CEU equals 10 hours of approved continuing education.*
- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item, multiple-choice recertification examination, which is based on the content outline of the certification examination.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

NOTE: BPS has approved, in concept, the option of BCNSP recertifying by examination OR by earning 80 hours of continuing education credit from BPS-designated professional development programs. A request for proposal (RFP) was issued, seeking to identify providers of programs suitable for the recertification of BCNSP. When one or more providers are identified, this recertification option will be implemented.

Option One: Examination

(Refer to the Nutrition Support Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

Domain 1: Clinical Practice/Provision of Individualized Nutrition Support to Patients (68% of the examination)

- **Subdomain A: Assessment** (21% of the examination)
- **Subdomain B: Develop and Implement a Therapeutic Plan of Care** (21% of the examination)
- **Subdomain C: Monitoring and Clinical Management** (26% of the examination)

Domain 2: Management of Nutrition Support Operations (20% of the examination)

- Subdomain A: Patient Care Management (12% of the examination)
- Subdomain B: Compounding Operations (8% of the examination)

Domain 3: Advancement of Nutrition Support Practice (12% of the examination)

ONCOLOGY PHARMACY

Oncology pharmacy specialists recommend, design, implement, monitor and modify pharmacotherapeutic plans to optimize outcomes in patients with malignant diseases. Those who are granted certification in this specialty may use the designation Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist and the initials BCOP, as long as certification is valid.

Recertification Requirements

Recertification for Board Certified Oncology Pharmacists (BCOP) requires assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills through one of two methods.

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item, multiple-choice objective recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination; OR
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a professional development program approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification

Option One: Examination

(Refer to the Oncology Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

Domain 1: Clinical Skills and Therapeutic Management. (60% of the examination)

Domain 2: Generation, Interpretation, and Dissemination of Information. (20% of the examination)

Domain 3: Guidelines, Policies, and Standards. (15% of the examination)

Domain 4: Public Health and Advocacy. (5% of the examination)

Option Two: Continuing Education

In 2005, BPS approved a professional development program which is offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) in conjunction with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), and the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), that can be used by BCOP for recertification. Contact ACCP (or consult their web site) for specific information about the program offerings that will qualify for BCOP recertification credit.

Program credit requirements were phased in over several years, as has been done for other BPS specialties with professional development options. The following table summarizes the requirements for each year group. ACCP is the official provider approved by BPS, and they or their agents will report recertification credit earned in this program directly to BPS.

BCOP Certified in:	Hours required:	By:
2000	55	12/31/2007
2001	70	12/31/2008
2002	85	12/31/2009
2003 and beyond	100	Seven years from certification

PHARMACOTHERAPY

Pharmacotherapy is that area of pharmacy practice that is responsible for ensuring the safe, appropriate, and economical use of drugs in patient care. The pharmacotherapy specialist has responsibility for direct patient care, often functions as a member of a multidisciplinary team and is frequently the primary source of drug information for other healthcare professionals. Those who are granted certification in this specialty may use the designation Board Certified Pharmacotherapy

Specialist and the initials BCPS, as long as certification is valid.

Recertification Requirements

Recertification for Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCPS) is an assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills through one of two methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item, multiple-choice objective recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination; OR
- Earning 120 hours of continuing education credit provided by a professional development program approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Option One: Examination

(Refer to the Pharmacotherapy Content Outline for details.)

Domain 1: Patient-specific Pharmacotherapy (55% of the examination)

Domain 2: Retrieval, generation, interpretation and dissemination of knowledge in pharmacotherapy (30% of the examination)

Domain 3: Health System-related Pharmacotherapy (15% of the examination)

Note: This is subject to change in early 2010 as the result of job task analysis update. Obtain the most current content online at www.bpsweb.org

Option Two: Continuing Education

The continuing education option for recertification was implemented in 1994 with BPS' designation of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Pharmacotherapy Self Assessment Program (PSAP) as an acceptable professional development program for recertification. BCPS recertifying in 2002 and later are required to earn 120 hours of credit from approved PSAP modules. No more than 60 hours may be earned prior to the end of the 4th year of certification. However, all 120 hours may be earned during the 5th-7th years of certification. The reason for this stipulation is to assure the public and the profession that a certified specialist's knowledge and skills are up-to-date when recertification is granted. There are no other restrictions as to which modules may be used to obtain the required hours. Those using PSAP for recertification should note that

there is a postmark deadline (about three months after the release of each module) for submission of the tests for recertification credit. Contact BPS or ACCP (or consult their web sites) for specific information.

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY

Psychiatric pharmacy addresses the pharmaceutical care of patients with psychiatric-related illnesses. As a member of a multidisciplinary treatment team, the psychiatric pharmacy specialist is often responsible for optimizing drug treatment and patient care by conducting such activities as monitoring patient response, patient assessment, recognizing drug-induced problems, and recommending appropriate treatment plans. Those who are granted certification in this specialty may use the designation Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist and the initials BCPP, as long as certification is valid.

Recertification Requirements

Recertification of Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacists (BCPP) requires an assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills through one or two methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item multiple choice recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination; or
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a

professional development program approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Option One: Examination

(Refer to the Psychiatric Pharmacy Content Outline for details.)

Domain 1: Clinical Skills and Therapeutic Management (65% of the examination)

Domain 2: Education and Dissemination of Information (25% of the examination)

Domain 3: Clinical Administration (10% of the examination)

Option Two: Continuing Education

In 2002, BPS approved a professional development program which is currently offered by the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) that can be used by BCPP for recertification. Contact CPNP (or consult their web site) for specific information about their program offerings that will qualify for BCPP recertification credit.

Program credit requirements were phased in over several years, as has been done for other BPS specialties with professional development options. BCPPs certified in 2001 and later, recertifying 12/31/08 and later, are required to earn 100 hours credit from this program. CPNP is the official provider by BPS, and they or their agents will report recertification credit earned in this program directly to BPS.

Vision Statement

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties will be the premier post-licensure certification agency serving the needs of the pharmacy profession and the public.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties is to improve patient care through recognition and promotion of specialized training, knowledge, and skills in pharmacy and specialty board certification of pharmacists.

We will accomplish this mission by:

- Providing leadership for the profession of pharmacy in the discussion, evolution, direction and recognition of specialty board certification of pharmacists;
- Establishing and promoting, in collaboration with stakeholders, the value of pharmacy specialization and board certification;
- Establishing the standards for identification and recognition of pharmacy specialties;
- Establishing standards of eligibility, knowledge and skills as the basis for board certification;
- Developing and administering a valid process to evaluate the knowledge and skills of pharmacists.



Board of Pharmacy Specialties
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