

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION RECOGNIZES BPS NUCLEAR PHARMACY CERTIFICATION

(Washington, DC) -- The Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS), an agency whose purpose is to recognize pharmacy specialties and certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills, has been notified that its Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist (BCNP) credential qualified for formal recognition by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The BPS certification process for nuclear pharmacists is the single Board Certification recognized by the NRC under its new Regulation 10 CFR 35 (1,2) for an "Authorized Nuclear Pharmacist". The only other Boards recognized by the NRC at this time are the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and the Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology, neither of which serves pharmacists. These NRC recognitions are published on the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/miau-reg-initiatives/spec-board-cert.html>.

BPS currently has nearly 500 Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacists who can benefit from this recognition. "We are very pleased that the NRC has recognized the value of the BCNP credential for a nuclear pharmacist under its new regulations", said Richard Hammes, M.S., BCNP, chair of the BPS Specialty Council on Nuclear Pharmacy.

News Release

Nuclear Pharmacy is pharmacy's oldest specialty certification, with the first BCNP credentials awarded in 1982. The NRC recognized the BCNP credential under its previous regulations, but BPS was required to document the rigor of its process once again when regulations were modified after 2000. Richard J. Bertin, PhD, BPS' Executive Director, reported that the NRC reviewed eligibility criteria, examination content, and quality of the certification and recertification process for awarding the BCNP prior to issuing the latest recognition.

The **Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS)** was founded by the American Pharmaceutical Association (now the American Pharmacists Association, APhA) in January 1976 to recognize specialties and certify pharmacists in specialized areas of pharmacy practice. Five specialties are currently recognized by BPS: 1) nuclear pharmacy, since 1978; 2) nutrition support pharmacy, since 1988; 3) pharmacotherapy, since 1988; 4) psychiatric pharmacy, since 1992; and 5) oncology pharmacy, since 1996. Currently, there are more than 5,000 pharmacist specialists certified by BPS.