

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Schedules Additional Open Hearings for Potential Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice Specialty

(Washington, DC) -- The Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS), an agency whose purpose is to recognize pharmacy specialties and certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills at the specialty practice level, announces the scheduling of Open Hearings on the petition for the establishment of a new specialty in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice. In November 2008, BPS received a petition to consider this specialty, jointly submitted by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, the American Pharmacists Association, and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The first open hearing to receive comments from the profession was held at the ASHP Midyear Clinical meeting in Orlando in December 2008. Two more open hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Sunday, April 5, 2009, in conjunction with the APhA2009 meeting in San Antonio, TX. The hearing will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in Grand Ballroom A at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, located at 101 Bowie Street, San Antonio.
2. Sunday, April 26, 2009 in conjunction with the ACCP Spring meeting in Orlando, FL. The hearing will take place from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 313 of the Orange County Convention Center - West Building, located at 9800 International Drive, Orlando.

Representatives of the petitioning organizations and members of the BPS Board will be present to hear views of audience members concerning the petition. A verbatim transcript of the hearing will be developed. Additional comments will also be accepted by BPS at the following addresses only:

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

ATTENTION: Ambulatory Care Comment

1100 15th Street NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

Or by e-mail to: BPSAmbCare@aphanet.org

Copies of the petition and its supporting appendices are available for download by interested parties at <http://www.bpsweb.org/pdfs/ambcarepetition.pdf> and <http://www.bpsweb.org/pdfs/ambcareappendices.pdf>. Petition content and review process are specified in BPS' Petitioners Guide for Recognition of a Pharmacy Practice Specialty, (<http://www.bpsweb.org/pdfs/petitionersguide.pdf>).

After its own review of the petition and all comments received, the BPS will determine whether to recognize Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice as a new specialty. This decision is expected in mid-2009. If it is approved, work will then begin on developing and implementing standards, eligibility criteria, and a psychometrically sound examination process. A first exam in the Ambulatory Care specialty would not be available before 2010.

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 areas of specialty 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. Nearly 8,000 pharmacist specialists are currently certified by BPS.