

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Certification Programs are Accredited by the NCCA

(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 accreditation of its specialty programs in Nuclear Pharmacy, Nutrition Support Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, Pharmacotherapy, and Psychiatric Pharmacy by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This accreditation is based on BPS having demonstrated compliance with the *NCCA Standards for Accreditation of Certification Programs*. NCCA is the accrediting body of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) and it accredits certification programs based on very high quality standards in the professional certification industry. BPS joins an elite group of organizations with programs that have received and maintain the prestigious NCCA accreditation. Further, BPS is the only organization that certifies pharmacists to achieve this distinction.

“Accreditation by NCCA is an important milestone in BPS’ vision to be Pharmacy’s premier specialty certification body,” said Terry L. Schwinghammer, PharmD, BCPS, Chair of the BPS Board. “This external accreditation validates our profession’s growing recognition of the value of BPS specialty certification as a component of the highest quality health care for patients.”

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. BPS currently exists as an autonomous division of APhA. 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.