

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

2215 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20037 • (202) 429-7591 • (202) 429-6304 FAX • www.bpsweb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 15, 2009
BPS NR #2009-05

Contact: Ryan Abel
bps@aphanet.org
202-429-7591

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Approves Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Petition

(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 recognition of its sixth specialty, Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice. This action followed the Board's receipt of a petition for the specialty in November 2008, jointly submitted by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). The Board solicited input concerning the petition from the public and the pharmacy profession at three open hearings and by postal and e-mail. At its spring 2009 meeting, BPS evaluated the petition in accordance with the criteria specified in its *Petitioner's Guide for Recognition of a Pharmacy Practice Specialty*, considered all testimony received, and unanimously approved the petitioners' request for recognition. "This was the first new specialty to be recognized by BPS since 1996", said Terry L. Schwinghammer, PharmD, BCPS, BPS Board Chair, "and we are very pleased that the pharmacy profession has once again trusted BPS to develop and implement a sound and defensible specialty-level certification process."

BPS will now work with the petitioning organizations to establish a specialty council for the new specialty and begin the rigorous process of defining the details of the certification process for ambulatory care pharmacy practice, as well as specific examination content and process. This will be done with the assistance of the Professional Examination Service, an internationally recognized educational testing firm.

It is likely that the first administration of an Ambulatory Care Pharmacy specialty examination will occur in 2011, depending on the availability of needed human and financial resources. As this process rolls out, there will be opportunity for participation by pharmacists across the profession with interest and expertise in meeting the pharmacy needs of patients in a variety of ambulatory care situations.

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 specialty certifications are currently offered 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.