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BPS ESTABLISHES ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AMBULATORY CARE SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

(Washington, DC) -- The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS), an organization whose purpose is to recognize pharmacy specialties and certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills, has finalized the eligibility criteria for its new specialty certification examination in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice. That examination will be first administered on October 1, 2011, along with the other BPS specialty certification exams, in several locations worldwide. Applicants for the Ambulatory Care examination will be required to fulfill all of the criteria below in order to achieve board certification.

Ambulatory Care Specialty Board Certification Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for this specialty certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of four (4) years of practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in ambulatory care pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS ambulatory care pharmacy content outline)

OR

Completion of any PGY1 residency* plus one (1) additional year of practice with at least 50% of time spent in ambulatory care pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS ambulatory care pharmacy content outline)

OR

Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency* in ambulatory care pharmacy.

* Effective January 1, 2013, only residencies accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists or other BPS-recognized bodies are creditable for this purpose.

- Achieving a passing score on the Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination.

The BPS *Candidate's Guide*, on-line applications, and other materials specific to the 2011 BPS examination cycle will be available on the BPS web site (www.bpsweb.org) in early 2011. Content outlines for all BPS specialties and other general information is currently posted at the BPS site.

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. Six 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. The latest BPS specialty, focused on ambulatory care pharmacy, was approved in June 2009, and is scheduled for its first examination in 2011. More than 9,000 pharmacist specialists are currently certified by BPS.
