



Examination Specifications Critical Care Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Critical Care Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCCCP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria and who design, implement, monitor, and modify pharmacotherapeutic treatments for critically ill patients across the continuum of care
Program Purpose	To validate that the critical care pharmacist has the advanced knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to optimize safety and outcomes for critically ill patients across the continuum of care
Eligibility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the United States that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction• Current, active license or registration to practice pharmacy in the United States or another jurisdiction• One of the following, within the past 7 years:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ At least 4 years of specialty area practice with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline○ Completion of PGY-1 pharmacy residency and at least 2 years of specialty area practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline○ Completion of PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 pharmacy residency in Critical Care Pharmacy <p><i>Residency programs must be accredited by or deemed candidate status by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) for PGY1, PGY2, and International Pharmacy Practice Residency Programs, or accredited by the Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board (CPRB) for year-1 programs.</i></p>
ECO Creation Date	June 2022

This document serves as examination specifications and certification scheme according to the respective requirements of the NCCA 2021 and ISO-IEC 17024:2012 standards.

For more information about the BCCCP examination program, please refer to the BPS website and candidate's guide: www.bpsweb.org/specialty-exams/candidates-guide/.

Examination Content Outline

1	Critical Care
1A	Critical Illness
1A1	Pathophysiology
1A2	Critical Care Disease States
1A3	Chronic Disease States
1A4	Risk Factors for Critical Illness
1A5	Post-ICU Syndrome (PICS)
1A6	Medical Emergencies
1B	Medical Therapies and Devices
1B1	Mechanical Circulatory Support
1B2	Mechanical/Assisted Ventilation
1B3	Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)
1B4	Renal Replacement Therapies
1B5	Lines, Tubes, and Drains
2	Therapeutics and Patient Management
2A	Treatment Planning
2A1	Diagnosis and Diagnostic Testing
2A2	Pharmacodynamics and Pharmacokinetics
2A3	Goals of Care
2A4	Perioperative Care
2A5	Transitions of Care (e.g., medication reconciliation, disposition, stepdown)
2A6	Medication Delivery (e.g., routes of administration, delivery devices, anatomic alterations)
2A7	Pharmacoeconomics
2A8	Social Determinants of Health
2B	Pharmacotherapy
2B1	Pulmonology
2B2	Cardiology
2B3	Nephrology
2B4	Neurology
2B5	Gastroenterology
2B6	Hepatology
2B7	Dermatology
2B8	Immunology
2B9	Endocrinology
2B10	Hematology
2B11	Toxicology
2B12	Infectious Diseases
2B13	Supportive Care
2B14	End-of-Life Care
2B15	Fluids, Electrolytes, and Nutrition
2B16	Trauma and Burns

2C	Treatment Outcomes and Monitoring
2C1	Therapeutic Targets and Endpoints
2C2	Therapeutic Drug Monitoring
2C3	Physiologic Response Monitoring
2C4	Drug Interactions and Adverse Reactions
2C5	Patient and Caregiver Education and Counseling
3	Professional Practice
3A	Quality of Care
3A1	Medication Safety (e.g., REMS, VAERS, barcodes)
3A2	Risk Mitigation (e.g., failure mode effects analysis, root cause analysis)
3A3	Healthcare Regulations and Standards (e.g., FDA, TJC, CMS, NIOSH, USP<800>)
3A4	Quality Management/Improvement
3A5	Formulary Management
3A6	Clinical Decision Support Systems
3A7	Development and Justification of Pharmacy Services
3B	Practice Management
3B1	Practice Standards and Guidelines
3B2	Scholarship (e.g., statistics, research methods, literature evaluation, publications)
3B3	Human Subjects Research (e.g., IRB/IEC, compassionate use, right-to-try)
3B4	Interprofessional Healthcare Collaboration
3B5	Pharmacist Preceptorship and Mentorship
3B6	Alternative Healthcare Delivery Modalities (e.g., tele-ICU, post-ICU clinic)
3B7	Disaster Healthcare Management

The examination content outline is a product of a job analysis (aka role delineation study) that includes facilitation of discussions with a representative panel of 15-20 subject matter experts who identify competencies required for safe and effective pharmacy practice in this specialty area as well as a validation survey soliciting endorsement of the identified competencies from certified pharmacists in this specialty area. The job analysis process is conducted every 5 years to help ensure that the competencies in the examination content outline reflect current pharmacy practice in the specialty area.

Examination Administration and Scoring

<u>Number of Examination Items</u>		Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
1	Critical Care		
1A	Critical Illness	22	13
1B	Medical Therapies and Devices	17	10
2	Therapeutics and Patient Management		
2A	Treatment Planning	25	14
2B	Pharmacotherapy	57	32
2C	Treatment Outcomes and Monitoring	18	11
3	Professional Practice		
3A	Quality of Care	18	10
3B	Practice Management	18	10
TOTAL		175	100

	Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
Exam Administration Time	4 hours 23 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes
Minimum Score	200	200
Minimum Passing Score	500	500
Maximum Score	800	800

The certification examination is split into two parts with an optional break (up to 30 minutes) in between. Part 1 consists of 100 items (2 hours 30 minutes) and Part 2 consists of 75 items (1 hour 53 minutes).

Maintenance of Certification

Recertification Requirements	<p>Pharmacists who earn the BCCCP designation will be required to maintain their certification over a 7-year period by completing one of the following recertification pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving a passing score on the BCCCP recertification examination in their seventh year following initial certification • Earning 100 hours of BPS-approved continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit provided by the professional development programs offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), and/or the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) <p><i>The Critical Care Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course offered by any of the approved providers may only be completed for recertification credit up to two times, in nonconsecutive years, during the 7-year recertification cycle.</i></p>
Ethics and Professionalism	<p>The Board of Pharmacy Specialties ascribes to the belief that certification carries an obligation for ethical behavior and professionalism necessary in all conduct. Candidates or certificants who are found to have exhibited unethical behavior or lack of professionalism may be prevented from pursuing certification or may be subject to suspension or withdrawal of certification, at the discretion of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.</p> <p>Please refer to the BPS Ethics and Professionalism Policy: https://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ethics.pdf</p>