



Examination Specifications Cardiology Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Cardiology Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCCP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who specialize in direct patient care to ensure safe and effective use of medications in patients with cardiovascular disease, as members of interprofessional health care teams
Program Purpose	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize patient outcomes by focusing on cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment
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 PGY1 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 PGY1 pharmacy residency and PGY2 pharmacy residency in Cardiology 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	May 2021

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

Examination Content Outline

1	Patient Care and Therapeutics <i>Comprehensive management of a patient with, or at risk for, chronic and/or acute cardiovascular disease including collecting, interpreting, and integrating pertinent data; and designing, implementing, monitoring, and modifying patient-specific plans of care in collaboration with the multidisciplinary healthcare team</i>
1.1	Collect, analyze, and integrate patient-specific information necessary to design a pharmacotherapeutic plan for a patient with or at risk for cardiovascular disease
1.2	Design, modify, recommend, and implement a patient-specific pharmacotherapeutic plan for an individual with or at risk for cardiovascular disease based on previously collected, analyzed, and integrated patient-specific information as well as clinical evidence
1.3	Educate patients and caregivers on and assess their comprehension of the patient-specific cardiovascular pharmacotherapeutic plan
1.4	Facilitate transitions of care between inpatient and outpatient settings for the patient with or at risk for cardiovascular disease
2	Translation of Evidence into Practice <i>Analysis, prioritization, interpretation, and application of knowledge relative to patients with, or at risk for, cardiovascular disease</i>
2.1	Apply knowledge of the appropriate design and conduct of clinical trials involving patients with or at risk for cardiovascular disease
2.2	Evaluate and critique cardiovascular literature including study design and methodology, statistical analysis, significance of reported data, and conclusions and applicability of results to patients with or at risk for cardiovascular disease.
2.3	Identify and evaluate landmark clinical trials and apply the results to patients with or at risk for cardiovascular disease
2.4	Interpret and apply pertinent cardiovascular guideline recommendations to patients with or at risk for cardiovascular disease
3	Practice Management and Population Health <i>establishing, implementing, maintaining, and evaluating systems and policies to optimize the care of patient groups with, or at risk for, cardiovascular disease</i>
3.1	Develop, implement, review, and modify policies, procedures, clinical pathways, protocols, and formulary decisions used in the care of patients with or at risk for cardiovascular disease
3.2	Participate in the establishment and utilization of data management systems (e.g., electronic health records, data warehouses) to ensure the safe and effective use of cardiovascular medications in groups or populations of patients
3.3	Promote and ensure the appropriate use of cardiovascular medications
3.4	Apply pharmacoeconomic principles to optimize clinical and humanistic outcomes for patients with or at risk for cardiovascular disease
3.5	Educate and guide the public regarding health services, avoidance and management of risk factors, and/or lifestyle modifications for the prevention of cardiovascular disease

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.

Secondary Classification Scheme: Associated Knowledge Areas

1	Patient Care and Therapeutics
1.1	Epidemiology, pathophysiology, risk factors, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic and/or acute cardiovascular disease states, such as atherosclerotic disease, dysrhythmias, heart failure
1.1.1	<i>Diagnostic testing</i>
1.1.2	<i>Lifestyle modifications</i>
1.1.3	<i>Patient-specific clinical and socioeconomic considerations</i>
1.1.4	<i>Therapeutic monitoring</i>
1.1.5	<i>Risk stratification scores</i>
1.1.6	<i>Transitions of care</i>
1.2	Pharmacotherapeutics for patients with, or at risk for, cardiovascular disease
1.2.1	<i>Pharmacokinetics</i>
1.2.2	<i>Pharmacodynamics</i>
1.2.3	<i>Efficacy and safety monitoring</i>
1.2.4	<i>Drug interactions</i>
1.2.5	<i>Pharmacogenomics</i>
1.3	Interdisciplinary communication, patient counseling and education techniques
1.4	Complementary and alternative medicines and their effects on cardiovascular health
2	Translation of Evidence into Practice
2.1	Primary, secondary, and tertiary sources of cardiovascular-related literature
2.2	Research design and methodology of cardiovascular-related trials
2.3	Biostatistical methods used in cardiovascular-related trials
2.4	Internal and external validity of cardiovascular-related trials
2.5	Benefits, limitations, and rationale for the selection of cardiovascular-related study endpoints
2.6	Landmark clinical trials evaluating pharmacotherapy for the management or prevention of cardiovascular diseases
2.7	Evidence-based guidelines for the management or prevention of cardiovascular diseases
2.8	Hierarchy of evidence related to the management or prevention of cardiovascular diseases
3	Practice Management and Population Health
3.1	Methods of developing, implementing, and evaluating clinical pathways, order sets, protocols, and/or policies
3.2	Techniques and methods to improve safety (e.g., incident reports, root cause analysis)
3.3	Formulary development and management, including strategies for managing drug shortages
3.4	Formatting, capabilities, limitations, and appropriate use of population-based electronic reports for clinical decision-making and quality improvement initiatives in cohorts of patients
3.5	Accreditation, legal, regulatory and safety requirements related to the care of cardiovascular patients (e.g., The Joint Commission, ASHP, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Committee for Quality Assurance, State Boards of Pharmacy, US Food and Drug Administration)
3.6	Processes supporting restrictions and contraindications of high-risk cardiovascular medications (e.g., initiation of antiarrhythmic medications, critical drug interactions between narrow therapeutic index medications, approval criteria of high-cost or high-risk medications)
3.7	Assessment of value of cardiovascular medications (e.g., relative impact on clinical outcomes, quality adjusted life year, incremental cost effectiveness ratio)
3.8	Cardiovascular screening techniques, health promotion, disease prevention, and risk reduction

Examination Administration and Scoring

<u>Number of Examination Items</u>		Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
1	Patient Care and Therapeutics	87	70
2	Translation of Evidence into Practice	25	20
3	Practice Management and Population Health	13	10
SCORED ITEMS		125	100
PRETEST ITEMS		25	--
TOTAL		150	100

The certification examination includes unscored pretest items that are embedded within the test and represent new items that are being trialed before use as a scored item in subsequent forms of the examination.

	Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
Exam Administration Time	3 hours 45 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes
Minimum Score	200	200
Minimum Passing Score	500	500
Maximum Score	800	800

Maintenance of Certification

Recertification Requirements	<p>Pharmacists who earn the BCCP 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 BCCP recertification examination in their seventh year following initial certification • Earning 100 hours of BPS-approved continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit provided by the joint professional development programs offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). <p><i>The Cardiology Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course offered by either of the approved providers may only be completed for recertification credit up to two times, in nonconsecutive years, during the seven-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>