The Board Certified Pharmacist's Welcome Packet

For pharmacists newly certified by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)
Welcome to The Board of Pharmacy Specialties

We're excited to have you join a community of more than 54,400 active pharmacist certifications around the globe! This document is intended to provide valuable information about the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) and helpful resources to promote and maintain your certification.

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PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

BPS DIGITAL BADGE

The BPS digital badge provides the certificant with the flexibility of a portable, digital, and third-party-verified display of their credential(s) as evidence of their achievement. Opportunities for application of your digital badge include:

- Demonstration of earned credential to peers
- Verification of credentials for employers
- Social media platforms
- Websites
- Email signatures

Learn more about how you can utilize your BPS Digital Badge by clicking here.

CELEBRATORY SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

Many enjoy celebrating their hard work and perseverance once being awarded a BPS specialty certification. For those interested in celebrating their accomplishment on social media, BPS has curated a few options to share the joyous news with your friends, family, and coworkers.

You can find our ready-to-use graphics here!
PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

SUGGESTED ORDER OF CREDENTIALS

Currently there is variation in the order and manner in which pharmacists display their professional credentials. This guidance looks to standardize use of credentials and other distinctions.

The following are BPS recommendations for listing the order of credentials:

1. Highest earned degree such as PhD, PharmD, MS, BS, etc.
2. Licensure credentials such as RPh
3. State designations such as designations for advanced practice
4. National certifications such as the Board of Pharmacy Specialties credentials
5. Awards and honors such as fellowship status
6. Other recognitions can include non-pharmacy credentials

The following are examples of listing the order of credentials:
- Jane Doe, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCP, FCCM
- John Doe, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, AAHIVP

BPS SOCIAL MEDIA

@BoardofPharmacySpecialties  @BPSweb
@Board-of-Pharmacy-Specialties  @BPSRadio
@BPSnewsChannel
PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR EXPLAINING YOUR BPS CREDENTIAL

- Board certification is a voluntary process that assesses competencies beyond those accessed by mandatory licensure exams and professional registration.
- Board certification demonstrates a level of rigor above a certificate of participation or assessment-based certificate.
- Board certification validates a pharmacist's education, training, experience, and knowledge in their specialty area of practice.
- Board certification shows a pharmacist’s commitment to improved patient outcomes, the advancement of the pharmacy profession, and to continued professional development.
- Pharmacists with residency training and/or professional experience are eligible to sit for a specialty exam, which is created by subject matter experts and validated by psychometric standards.
- Discuss your personal motivator, which could include but is not limited to:
  - Recognition among peers;
  - Financial reward;
  - Career advancement;
  - Personal satisfaction; and/or
  - Accountability to maintain advanced knowledge.
- Recertification pathways (e.g. examination or BPS-approved professional development programs) ensure that board-certified pharmacists maintain the necessary expertise to practice at advanced levels.
- Click here for the up to date number of certifications for your specialty area.
PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

EASY STATISTICS ABOUT THE BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES (BPS)

54,400
There are more than 54,400 active pharmacist certifications in more than 59 countries across the globe.

4,000
There are more than 4,000 pharmacists holding multiple certifications.

14
There are 14 BPS-recognized specialty areas that a pharmacist may earn board certification in.
Recertification assures the public and the profession that certified practitioners undergo periodic evaluation. The Board of Pharmacy Specialties requires all board-certified specialists to recertify *every seven years*.

If a certified pharmacist fails to successfully complete the recertification process, extension of certification may be granted for a one-time only, one-year period, at the sole discretion of BPS, while the individual seeks to successfully complete the process.

If a BPS certified specialist does not apply for recertification, the individual will be removed from the official roster of board certified specialists. Once a BPS-certified specialist has been removed from the roster, reinstatement can only be achieved by the successful completion of the entire certification process.

For full details regarding recertification, please refer to the BPS Recertification Guide, which is updated annually with relevant information.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROVIDERS**

If you decide that recertification through continued education (CE) is the right pathway for you, you can visit this [webpage](#) to view your opportunities through BPS approved professional development providers. Please note that each specialty has its own specific CE pathway and rules surrounding the use of CE credits for more than one specialty. The amount of CE credit required before December 31st of your recertification year differs between each specialty, so make sure to be up to date with the information listed on the BPS website.
OUR HISTORY
In 1971, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) House of Delegates adopted a policy statement which contained in part the following provision: “that an organizational mechanism be established with the structure of the Association for the recognition of specialties and certification of specialists.” Following adoption of this statement and further deliberations and discussions, the APhA Board of Trustees created the Taskforce on Specialties in Pharmacy in 1973.

The report of the Task Force concluded that “an official board with independent decision-making authority should now be established and charged with the responsibility of formally recognizing specialties in pharmacy once they are judged to have met approved criteria.” Thus, creating the Board of Pharmacy Specialties® (BPS).

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties® (BPS) was established in 1976 as an autonomous division of the American Pharmacists Association. Today, BPS is the gold standard in post-licensure certification worldwide.
OUR VISION
The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS), the premier post-licensure certification agency, will ensure that BPS Board Certified Pharmacists are recognized within healthcare delivery systems while serving the needs of the public and the pharmacy profession.

OUR MISSION
The mission of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties is to improve patient care by promoting the recognition and value of specialized training, knowledge, and skills in pharmacy and specialty board certification of pharmacists. We accomplish this mission by:

- Providing leadership for the profession of pharmacy in the discussion, evolution, direction and recognition of specialty board certification of pharmacists.
- Establishing and promoting, in collaboration with stakeholders, the value of pharmacy specialization and board certification.
- Establishing the standards for identification and recognition of pharmacy specialties.
- Establishing standards of eligibility, knowledge and skills for pharmacists as the basis for board certification.
- Developing and administering a valid process to evaluate the knowledge and skills for recognition of board certified pharmacists.
- Assessing and recognizing the continued eligibility, knowledge, and skills of board certified pharmacist specialists through a valid re-certification process.
BPS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Today, BPS recognizes 14 distinct specialties and more than 54,400 active pharmacist certifications nationally and internationally.

1978 Nuclear Pharmacy (BCNP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

1978 Nutrition Support Pharmacy (BCNSP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

1988 Pharmacotherapy (BCPS)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

1988 Psychiatry Pharmacy (BCPP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

1994 Oncology Pharmacy (BCOP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

1994 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (BCACP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2009 Critical Care Pharmacy (BCCCP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2013 Pediatric Pharmacy (BCPPS)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2013 Geriatric Pharmacy (BCGP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2017 Cardiology Pharmacy (BCCP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2017 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy (BCIDP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2018 Compounded Sterile Preparations Pharmacy (BCSCP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2018 Solid Organ Transplantation Pharmacy (BCTXP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.

2020 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy (BCEMP)
More information about this specialty can be found here.
BPS BY-THE-NUMBERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE PHARMACIST CERTIFICATIONS

Number of Active Certifications Issued by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties by Specialty Area in the U.S. and Abroad as of December 2021 (Total=54,441)

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL PHARMACIST CERTIFICATIONS

Number of Active Certifications Issued by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties by Specialty Area in the Top 14 out of 58 Countries outside of the U.S. as of December 2021 (Total=5,811)
COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

BPS SPECIALTY COUNCILS

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) has expanded the number of specialties it recognizes due to the growth of the pharmacy profession. BPS currently has 14 specialty councils that help facilitate and produce the exams for their specialty.

To learn more about the members of each specialty council, you can visit the corresponding links below:

- Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCACP)
- Cardiology Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCCP)
- Compounded Sterile Preparations Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCSCP)
- Critical Care Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCCCP)
- Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCEMP)
- Geriatric Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCGP)
- Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCIDP)
- Nuclear Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCNP)
- Nutrition Support Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCNSP)
- Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCOP)
- Pediatric Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCPPS)
- Pharmacotherapy Specialty Council (BCPS)
- Psychiatry Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCPP)
- Solid Organ Transplantation Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCTXP)