



Examination Specifications Nutrition Support Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCNSP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who address the nutritional status and direct care of patients receiving specialized nutrition support, including parenteral or enteral nutrition
Program Purpose	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to promote the maintenance and/or restoration of optimal nutritional status through design and modification of individualized treatment plans, direct patient care, identification of nutrient deficiencies, preparation and administration of parenteral and enteral nutrition, and monitoring of nutritional status
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 3 years of specialty area practice with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline○ Completion of PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residency in Nutrition Support 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	August 2018

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

Examination Content Outline

1 Clinical Practice: Provision of Patient-Centered Nutrition Support Tasks	
1.01	Interview the patient and/or designated caregiver to obtain medical, surgical, nutrition, medication, allergy, psychosocial, cultural, and socioeconomic history
1.02	Evaluate relevant medical, surgical, and nutrition history along with physical, laboratory, and radiologic findings to determine nutrition status
1.03	Obtain appropriate nutrition assessment parameters for evaluating clinical and nutrition status
1.04	Evaluate appropriate indications for nutrition support, including suitability and feasibility
1.05	Evaluate reimbursement eligibility for nutrition support (e.g., diagnosis, formulations, services, supplies, duration)
1.06	Define the goals for nutrition support
1.07	Determine the preferred route and access devices for nutrition support
1.08	Identify and address clinically significant interactions between drugs, dietary supplements, and nutrients
1.09	Estimate micronutrients, macronutrients, fluid, and electrolyte requirements
1.10	Select an appropriate feeding formulation and delivery system
1.11	Select the administration method for feeding formulation (e.g., bolus, intermittent, continuous, cyclic)
1.12	Select appropriate adjunctive pharmacologic therapies
1.13	Individualize the therapeutic plan of care based on safety, ethical, cultural, legal, economic, quality-of-life issues
1.14	Design a monitoring plan to ensure safety and efficacy of the nutrition care plan
1.15	Recognize and manage complications of nutrition support
1.16	Modify the patient's therapeutic plan of care based on clinical status and progress toward therapeutic goals (includes discontinuation of nutrition therapy)
1.17	Collaborate as members of the interprofessional team to communicate essential information regarding the patients' status and nutrition care plan
1.18	Communicate the nutrition support plan across transitions of care
1.19	Document the nutrition support plan in the medical record
1.20	Educate the patient and caregivers regarding the patient's nutrition care plan and available resources
2 Practice Management and Operations	
2.01	Perform administrative duties of interprofessional nutrition support teams or committees (e.g., human resources, fiscal resources, educational programs)
2.02	Establish relationships and/or collaborative practice agreements with other healthcare providers
2.03	Develop systems of ongoing quality improvement, patient safety, and provision of cost-effective nutrition support
2.04	Maintain compliance with federal regulations, accreditation standards, and professional guidelines (including those pertaining to sterile and non-sterile product compounding)
2.05	Develop and implement policies and procedures related to nutrition assessment, patient selection, ordering, administration, monitoring, ethical considerations, and clinical review and pharmaceutical order verification
2.06	Integrate nutrition support into organization-specific critical pathways and practice guidelines
2.07	Establish policies and procedures for compounding/preparing, labeling, storing, and beyond-use-dating of enteral and parenteral nutrition formulations

2.08	Review and select products, supplies and equipment as part of an interdisciplinary team to safely order, compound/prepare and administer parenteral and enteral nutrition
2.09	Perform essential calculations for the compounding of parenteral nutrition formulations
2.11	Perform and supervise the safe and accurate compounding and dispensing of enteral and parenteral nutrition formulations
2.11	Develop and implement a plan to manage and communicate nutrition product shortages
3	Evidence-Based Medicine, Scholarship, Education, and Advocacy
3.01	Retrieve biomedical literature and interpret study design, methodology, statistical analysis, and results to practice evidence-based medicine
3.02	Contribute to the nutrition support body of knowledge by engaging in and disseminating scholarly work
3.03	Provide interprofessional education to improve awareness and understanding of nutrition support therapies and patient outcomes
3.04	Advocate for the role and contribution of nutrition support pharmacy to the public, health care providers, health system, and policy makers

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

Number of Examination Items		Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
1	Clinical Practice: Provision of Patient-Centered Nutrition Support Tasks	117	67
2	Practice Management and Operations	46	26
3	Evidence-Based Medicine, Scholarship, Education, and Advocacy	12	7
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 BCNSP 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 BCNSP 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 Purdue University. <p><i>The Nutrition Support Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course offered by any 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>