Dear Board Certified Pharmacist:

As a BPS board certified pharmacist, you are part of a distinct group of pharmacy professionals who are on the leading edge of patient care. Even with nearly 25,000 pharmacists achieving BPS board certification, this number represents less than 5% of the pharmacists in the world.

To help advance your exemplary clinical work, further recognize your accomplishment of earning BPS board certification, and celebrate the 40th anniversary of BPS, we are committing to a multi-year project titled the Value of Certification (VoC) Initiative.

The VoC Initiative is a comprehensive, multi-faceted effort to promote the value of your certification to important stakeholders such as the public, professional colleagues, employers, payers and government agencies. This overview highlights some recent activities to keep you informed of the work of the VoC Initiative to champion board certified pharmacists.

**Public Outreach**

In February, BPS was featured on 915 news and talk radios stations across the United States reaching a listening audience of over 5.3 million people.

Listen to the interview by clicking [here](#).

Through our interactions with BPS board certified pharmacists, we're learning about the ways you are serving as integral members of multidisciplinary health care teams and are increasingly recognized for your specialized training, knowledge, and skills in pharmacy and healthcare. The BPS board certification process validates your expertise and can open doors to work with physicians and other health care providers in a variety of new ways. Leading up to the launch of the VoC Initiative, we collected commentaries from various health care providers. We encourage you to click on the YouTube link below to
hear directly from physicians and nurses about how valuable board certified pharmacists are to patient care.

Watch the video at by clicking here.

**Professional Colleagues**

BPS was acknowledged in the outstanding work of Robert Ignoffo, PharmD, FASHP, FCSHP, and colleagues in their recently published paper, *Board-Certified Oncology Pharmacists: Their Potential Contribution to Reducing a Shortfall in Oncology Patient Visits*. In this article, which appears in the April 2016 issue of the Journal of Oncology Practice, the authors estimate that the addition of Board Certified Oncology Pharmacists (BCOP) to the health care team will substantially reduce the shortfall of providers needed for oncology patient visits with BCOPs providing 5 million to 7 million 30-minute patient visits annually.

View the article online at [http://jop.ascopubs.org/content/12/4/e359](http://jop.ascopubs.org/content/12/4/e359)

BPS is working with the **American Board of Nursing Specialties** (ABNS) to advance research regarding the value of certification. BPS recently co-sponsored and attended the special ABNS meeting, *The Value of Certification: Building the Business Case for Certification*, which identified the top five benefits of certification:

- Advances safety
- Improves quality
- Provides a measurable return on investment
- Improves recruitment and retention
- Improves process of care

BPS is also working with the **Competency & Credentialing Institute** (CCI) to administer the Perceived Value of Certification Tool and publish the results in multiple professional journals. CCI is a leader in credentialing, nursing competency assessment, and education for the perioperative nursing community. BPS is proud to have such an outstanding partner as CCI in conducting this project.

In addition, BPS will be reaching out to our colleagues in medicine to discuss the value of certification and we look forward to reporting on those discussions in the future.

**Employers**

BPS has committed to helping employers recognize the value of board certified pharmacists and has established an Employer Advisory Committee. Among the benefits that the committee will discuss with employers regarding the value of BPS board certified pharmacists are:
- Reduced pharmacist turnover
- Improved employee performance and satisfaction
- Reduced training times and costs
- Increased risk management and better economic results
- Improved patient outcomes

Additionally, the committee will explore ways to encourage employers to provide greater recognition and support for board certified pharmacists. BPS is pleased that the former Chair of the Specialty Council on Pharmacotherapy, Beth Chester, PharmD, MPH, FCCP, BCPS, from Group Health Cooperative in the Pacific Northwest, will lead this group.

**Government Agencies**

As various states across the country are beginning to discuss provider status legislation, BPS is closely monitoring state regulatory activities to make sure that BPS credentials are recognized as part of the accepted credentials. BPS staff and board members have been actively involved with the California State Board of Pharmacy as they begin to promulgate regulations for the Advanced Practice Pharmacist designation.

We are excited to bring you this important news about the VoC Initiative and commend you for your commitment to the profession of pharmacy and most importantly to the patients we all strive to serve. BPS looks forward to providing you with updates in the months ahead as we continue our efforts to further educate the public and other healthcare providers about the unique and critical roles of board certified pharmacists in providing safe and effective use of medications.

Sincerely,

William E. Evans, PharmD
2016 Chair of BPS Board of Directors
Chair in Pharmacogenomics
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

William Ellis, MS
Executive Director
Board of Pharmacy Specialties