GERIATRIC PHARMACY FACT SHEET

Geriatric Pharmacy Practice specializes in applying the knowledge of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of medications in older adults to optimize therapeutic outcomes. Currently there are more than 4,600 BPS Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacists.

The BPS Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP):
- Applies the pharmacist patient care process to provide person-centered care to older adults with complex medication regimens and multiple comorbidities;
- Provides direct patient care, education of other health care providers, advocacy for appropriate medication use in older adults and collaboration with interprofessional health care teams; and
- Improves public health by identifying, preventing, and resolving medication-related problems in older adults, while promoting optimal therapeutic and humanistic outcomes.

To become a BPS Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist, a pharmacist must:
- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside of the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in that jurisdiction
- Maintain a current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction
- Complete two (2) years of practice experience, post-licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in geriatric pharmacy activities (as defined in the BPS Geriatric Pharmacy Content Outline); and
- Achieve a passing score on the BPS Geriatric Pharmacy Certification Examination.

Recertification is required every seven (7) years and can be accomplished by:
- Achieving a passing score on the BPS Geriatric Pharmacy Recertification Exam; or
- Earning a minimum of 100 hours of continuing education provided by the geriatric professional development programs offered by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) and/or the joint program offered by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP).

Becoming BPS board certified enables pharmacists to:
- Provide more comprehensive and complex patient care;
- Be prepared to step into pharmacy’s evolving position on the interdisciplinary treatment team;
- Experience increased recognition by other healthcare professionals, employers, patients and insurers; and
- Improve their standing in a competitive employment market.

Board certification through the Board of Pharmacy Specialties is the gold standard for determining which pharmacists are qualified to contribute at advanced practice levels. Through the rigorous examination standards mandated by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties, the BPS board certified pharmacist is uniquely trained and educated to meet the continually expanding expectations of other healthcare team members and the specialized needs of the patients they serve.