

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 4,400 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.
- 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:

- 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 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP); or
- Achieving a passing score on the BPS Geriatric Pharmacy Recertification Exam

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
- 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.