NUTRITION SUPPORT PHARMACY
FACT SHEET

Nutrition Support Pharmacy addresses the care of patients receiving specialized nutrition support, including parenteral (IV) or enteral (feeding tube) nutrition. Currently there are almost 600 BPS Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacists.

The BPS Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist® (BCNSP):

- Has the advanced knowledge and expertise to promote maintenance of and/or restore optimal nutritional status through design and modification of individualized treatment plans
- Has responsibility for direct patient care including patient assessment; type of feeding design; clinical monitoring; dosing of specific nutrients; compatibility issues; and identification of unusual nutrient deficiencies to guarantee the safety of the patient
- Ensures that parenteral and enteral feeding formulations are properly prepared and administered
- Is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the patient’s nutritional status during the critical transition to a care facility or home

To become a BPS Board Certified Nutrition Support 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; and
- Maintain a current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction; and
- Complete three (3) years of post-licensure practice experience with at least fifty percent (50%) of time spent in nutrition support pharmacy activities as defined in the BPS Nutrition Support Pharmacy Content Outline; or
- Complete an ASHP-accredited PGY2 residency in Nutrition Support; and
- Achieve a passing score on the BPS Nutrition Support Certification Examination.

Recertification is required every seven (7) years and can be accomplished by:

- Earning a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education in nutrition support with no less than ten (10) hours earned every two years from providers approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE); or
- Achieving a passing score on the BPS Nutrition Support 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 multidisciplinary 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 care for.