**PHARMACOTHERAPY FACT SHEET**

**Pharmacotherapy** ensures the safe, appropriate and economical use of medications as part of interprofessional treatment teams in a variety of settings, including hospitals and health systems. Currently there are more than 27,600 BPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists.

**The BPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist® (BCPS):**

- Has the advanced knowledge and expertise to optimize medication use, improve patient outcomes, and serve as an objective, evidence-based source for therapeutic information and recommendations;
- Works with physicians in hospitals to design and/or modify patient’s medication therapy regimens, recommending adjustments to dosage or alternate medications when appropriate; and
- Works with physicians in outpatient settings to optimize medication therapy, tracking progress and compliance as well as making suggestions about diet and lifestyle changes to better manage their health.

**To become a BPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist®, a pharmacist must:**

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education](https://www.acpe-accredit.org) (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 pharmacotherapy activities as defined in the BPS Pharmacotherapy Specialty Content Outline; or
- Complete a PGY1 residency accredited by the [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists](https://www.ashp.org) (ASHP); and
- Achieve a passing score on the BPS Pharmacotherapy Certification Examination.

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

- Achieving a passing score on the BPS Pharmacotherapy Recertification Examination; or
- Earning 120 hours of continuing education credit through the BPS-approved professional development program offered by the [American College of Clinical Pharmacy](https://www.accp.com) (ACCP) and/or the [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists](https://www.ashp.org) (ASHP)
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; 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.