

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 28,000 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](#) (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](#) (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](#) (ACCP) and/or the [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists](#) (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.