PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY
FACT SHEET

Psychiatric Pharmacy addresses the pharmaceutical care of patients with psychiatric-related illnesses and disorders. Currently there are over 1,200 BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacists.

The BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist® (BCPP):

- Has the advanced knowledge and expertise to provide care to patients with multifaceted symptoms, including treatment assessment, medication regimen design and appropriate dosing
- Safely manages complex medications, monitors for potential adverse reactions and interactions and adjusts medication regimens accordingly
- Serves as a valuable resource for patients and healthcare teams in inpatient and outpatient settings
- Fills important administrative roles in psychiatric, mental retardation and substance abuse facilities
- Helps reduce costs by recommending the most cost-effective medications

To become a BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist, a candidate must:

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside 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 four years of post-licensure practice with at least fifty percent (50%) of time spent in psychiatric pharmacy activities as defined in the BPS Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Content Outline; or
- Complete an ASHP-accredited PGY1 residency plus two (2) additional years of practice post-pharmacist licensure with fifty percent (50%) spent in psychiatric pharmacy activities as defined in the BPS Psychiatric Specialty Content Outline; or
- Complete an ASHP-approved PGY2 residency in Psychiatric Pharmacy; and achieve a passing score on the BPS Psychiatric Pharmacy Certification Examination.

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

- Achieving a passing score on the BPS Psychiatric Pharmacy Recertification Examination; or
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit through the BPS-approved professional development program offered by the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP).
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
- Improve their standing in a competitive employment market
- Be recognized for their expertise by other healthcare professionals, employers, patients and insurers

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.