PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY
FACT SHEET

The **BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP)** program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria and who in their unique practice provide person-centered care that ensures the safe, appropriate, evidence-based, and cost-effective use of medications in the treatment of persons with mental illness. Currently there are more than 1,450 BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacists.

The purpose of the BCPP program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize outcomes and recovery for patients with mental illness by:

- Designing, implementing, monitoring, and modifying treatment plans for patients;
- Educating patients, health care professionals, and other stakeholders; and
- Providing leadership in the health system and public policy to improve the health of persons with mental illness.

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

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education](https://www.acpe-accredit.org) (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](https://www.cpnp.org) (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; and
- 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.