



BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES AMBULATORY CARE PHARMACY FACT SHEET

Ambulatory Care Pharmacy addresses the provision of integrated, accessible healthcare services to ambulatory patients in a variety of settings including, outpatient facilities, clinics, physician offices, managed care organizations and community pharmacies. Ambulatory Care Pharmacy is the newest BPS specialty, with the first certification examination administered in the fall of 2011. Currently there are nearly 13,000 BPS board certified pharmacists in the U.S.; of those, more than 500 are BPS Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacists.*

The BPS Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP):

- Provides long term direct patient care, practicing in the context of family and the community
- Is trained to focus on the special needs of ambulatory patients, managing complex regimens who have concurrent illnesses taking multiple medications
- Assists with managing chronic conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease
- Engages patients in wellness and prevention, including health screenings and immunizations
- Provides important care in between healthcare provider visits, including checking vital signs, refilling prescriptions and educating patients on the importance of taking their medications as directed

To become a BPS Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, a pharmacist must:

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a qualified program outside the U.S. and maintain an active license to practice pharmacy
- Complete 4 years of practice experience in ambulatory care pharmacy; or complete a PGY1 residency accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and one additional year of practice spent in ambulatory care pharmacy activities; or complete a PGY2 specialty residency in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy accredited by ASHP
- Achieve a passing score on the **BPS Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination**

Recertification of the BCACP is required every seven years and can be accomplished by:

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by the professional development programs offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and/or the joint program offered by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA); **or**
- Achieving a passing score on the **BPS Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Recertification Examination**

Becoming BPS board certified enables pharmacists to differentiate and affirm their knowledge and skills to:

- Provide more comprehensive patient care
- Be prepared to step into pharmacy's evolving position on the multidisciplinary treatment team
- Be recognized for their expertise by healthcare professionals, employers, patients and insurers
- Improve their standing in a competitive employment market

Board certification through the [Board of Pharmacy Specialties](#), established in 1976 as an autonomous division of the American Pharmacists Association, has become recognized as the gold standard for determining which pharmacists are qualified to contribute at advanced practice levels.

Through the rigorous certification and recertification standards mandated by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties, BPS board certified pharmacists are uniquely trained to play an integral role on the healthcare team to improve patient outcomes, reduce healthcare costs and meet today's expanding professional expectations in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings.

** As of January 2012, BPS offers certification and recertification in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, Nuclear Pharmacy, Nutrition Support Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, Pharmacotherapy and Psychiatric Pharmacy.*



BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES NUCLEAR PHARMACY FACT SHEET

Nuclear Pharmacy, the first pharmacy specialty recognized by BPS in 1978, promotes public health through safe and effective use of radioactive medications. Currently there are nearly 13,000 BPS board certified pharmacists in the U.S.; of those, more than 500 are BPS Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacists.*

The BPS Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist (BCNP):

- Is specially trained to optimize nuclear medicine, molecular imaging and therapeutic treatments with radiopharmaceuticals to help facilitate diagnosis and treatment and improve patient outcomes
- Specializes in the procurement, compounding, preparation, dispensing, distribution and monitoring of highly toxic radiopharmaceuticals used for diagnostic procedures
- Consults on health and safety issues concerning radiopharmaceuticals, as well as the use of non-radioactive drugs
- Plays an important role in quality control and cost management by thoroughly testing each product before delivery, minimizing errors and patient exposure to radiation, and identifying ahead of time whether a patient is on any interfering medications

To become a BPS Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist, a pharmacist must:

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a qualified program outside the U.S. and maintain an active license to practice pharmacy
- Complete up to 2,000 academic hours in nuclear pharmacy
- Earn an MS or a PhD in nuclear pharmacy and complete a nuclear pharmacy certificate program
- Complete up to 4,000 hours experience in nuclear pharmacy practice, including up to 2,000 hours in a residency program accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
- Achieve a passing score on the **BPS Nuclear Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination**

Recertification of the BCNP is required every seven years and can be accomplished by:

- Participating in a multi-step professional development option which includes specific continuing education programs offered through the University of New Mexico; **or**
- Achieving a passing score on the **BPS Nuclear Pharmacy Specialty Recertification Examination**

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BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES 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 nearly 13,000 BPS board certified pharmacists in the U.S.; of those, more than 500 are BPS Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacists.*

The BPS Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist (BCNSP):

- Often works closely with physicians, dietitians and other members of the hospital and/or home infusion healthcare team
- 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 qualified program outside the U.S. and maintain an active license to practice pharmacy
- Complete three years practice experience in nutrition support pharmacy activities **or** complete a PGY2 specialty residency in Nutrition Support accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
- Achieve a passing score on the **BPS Nutrition Support Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination**

Recertification of the BCNSP is required every seven years and can be accomplished by:

- Earning a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education in nutrition support from providers approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), with no less than 10 hours earned every two years;
and
- Achieve a passing score on the **BPS Nutrition Support Pharmacy Recertification Examination**

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BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES ONCOLOGY PHARMACY FACT SHEET

Oncology Pharmacy targets the needs of patients with various malignant diseases and their complications. Currently there are nearly 13,000 BPS board certified pharmacists in the U.S.; of those, more than 1,200 are BPS Board Certified Oncology Pharmacists.*

A BPS Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP):

- Has unique knowledge and expertise in managing the complexities of medications used to treat or prevent cancer and provides evidence-based, patient-centered medication therapy management
- Is specially trained to recommend, design, implement, monitor and modify pharmacotherapeutic plans to optimize outcomes in patients with malignant diseases and reduce medication errors
- Recognizes and responds to adverse physical and emotional issues that may arise during treatment, including pain, nausea and hair loss
- Works in hospital settings as part of a collaborative team that includes physicians, nurses, physical therapists and other healthcare professionals; and in ambulatory clinics, arranging for patients to receive their chemotherapy in a care facility or at home
- Serves as a resource for community pharmacists whose patients are being treated outside the hospital

In order to become a BPS Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist, a pharmacist must:

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a qualified program outside the U.S. and maintain an active license to practice pharmacy
- Complete four years of practice experience in oncology pharmacy activities; **or** complete a PGY2 specialty residency in oncology accredited by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and one additional year of practice experience in oncology pharmacy activities
- Achieve a passing score on the **BPS Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination**

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

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by the professional development program offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) in conjunction with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA); **or**
- Achieving a passing score on the **BPS Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Recertification Examination**

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BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES PHARMACOTHERAPY FACT SHEET

Pharmacotherapy is the area of pharmacy practice that is responsible for ensuring the safe, appropriate and economical use of medications. Currently, there are nearly 13,000 BPS board certified pharmacists in the U.S.; of those, more than 9,000 are BPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists.*

The Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS):

- Serves as an objective, evidence-based source for therapeutic information and recommendations
- Demonstrates advanced knowledge and experience that are used to optimize medication use and improve patient outcomes
- In hospitals, the BCPS helps physicians design and/or modify patient's medication therapy regimens, recommending adjustments to dosage or alternate medications when appropriate
- In outpatient settings, the BCPS works with physicians 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 BPS board certified in pharmacotherapy, a pharmacist must:

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a qualified program outside the U.S. and maintain a license to practice pharmacy
- Complete three years of practice experience in pharmacotherapy activities **or** a PGY1 residency accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
- Achieve a passing score on the **BPS Pharmacotherapy Specialty Certification Examination**

Recertification of the BPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist is achieved through one of two methods:

- Earning 120 hours of continuing education credit provided by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, the professional development program approved by BPS, over seven years; **or**
- Achieving a passing score on the **BPS Pharmacotherapy Recertification Examination**

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BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY FACT SHEET

Psychiatric Pharmacy addresses the pharmaceutical care needs of patients with psychiatric illness. Currently, there are nearly 13,000 BPS board certified pharmacists in the U.S.; of those, almost 700 are **BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacists**.*

The BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP):

- Understands the increasingly intricate nature of medication regimens used to treat psychiatric illness
- Cares directly for patients, including treatment assessment, medication regimen design and appropriate dosing
- Safely manages complex medications, monitors for potential adverse reactions and interactions and recommends medication regimens adjustments
- Serves as a valuable resource for patients and healthcare teams in inpatient and outpatient settings
- Fills important administrative and clinical roles in psychiatric and substance abuse facilities
- Help reduce costs by recommending the most cost effective medications

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

- Graduate from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a qualified program outside the U.S. and maintain an active license
- Complete four years of practice in psychiatric pharmacy activities; **or** complete a PGY2 specialty residency in Psychiatric Pharmacy accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in addition to one additional year of practice in psychiatric pharmacy activities
- Achieve a passing score on the **BPS Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination**

Recertification of the BCPP is required every seven years and can be accomplished by:

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit through the professional development program offered by the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP); **or**
- Achieving a passing score on the **BPS Psychiatric Pharmacy Recertification Examination**

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