

March 19, 2012

Memorandum

To: Michael S. Maddux, Pharm.D., FCCP  
Executive Director  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy

Thomas E. Menighan, BSPharm, MBA, ScD, FAPhA  
Executive Vice President and CEO  
American Pharmacists Association

Paul W. Abramowitz, Pharm.D., FASHP  
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Society of Health System Pharmacists

From: William M. Ellis, RPh, MS  
Executive Director  
Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)

RE: 2012 Role Delineation Studies

During the BPS meeting held on March 14, 2012, the Board reviewed the preliminary requests to consider role delineation studies in Cardiology, Infectious Diseases and Organ Transplantation Pharmacy. BPS will move forward with conducting role delineation studies in Cardiology and Infectious Diseases Pharmacy. Conducting a role delineation study is a critical step in evaluating a proposed specialty. The purpose of the role delineation study is to determine whether Cardiology and Infectious Diseases Pharmacy are based upon a specialized knowledge of the pharmaceutical sciences as well as specialized functions routinely performed by practitioners in these proposed specialties.

As BPS works to recognize specialties in pharmacy practice, BPS will assume the cost of these role delineation studies. As you are aware, this is a change in the approach BPS has taken in the past, whereby interested parties had responsibility for the cost of conducting the role delineation study as part of their full petition to recognize a pharmacy practice specialty. It should be noted that there will be a limit to the number of new role delineation studies that BPS can undertake in a calendar year for multiple reasons. In 2012, BPS had planned and budgeted for two new role delineation studies. BPS will be pleased to review a resubmission of the Organ Transplantation Pharmacy Role Delineation Study Request in 2013 and consider it within the context of maintaining and promoting current specialties as well as the development of other new specialties.

The general process and timeline for conducting the 2012 Role Delineation Studies is listed below:

- BPS will constitute a Practice Analysis Task Force of 10 subject matter experts in each proposed specialty area. Nominations will be due by **May 4, 2012**.
- Appointments will be made to the respective Practice Analysis Task Force on or about **May 25, 2012**.
- The Practice Analysis Task Force will work with BPS staff and staff from Professional Examination Service, during the month of **June 2012** to collect preliminary data regarding the proposed specialties.
- BPS will convene a 2-day meeting with each Practice Analysis Task Force during the last two weeks in **July 2012**, in Washington, DC to create a preliminary content outline for the proposed specialties.
- The preliminary content outline for each proposed specialty will be reviewed by the Practice Analysis Task Force and external subject matter experts appointed by BPS. Based upon the feedback collected from these groups, the preliminary content outlines will be refined. This work will take place during **August, September and October 2012**.
- The revised preliminary content outlines will become the basis for validation surveys fielded to pharmacists working in the proposed specialty areas and will be pilot tested in **November 2012**.
- PES will administer the validation survey to up to 2000 pharmacists practicing in the proposed specialty in **December 2012/January 2013**.
- PES will conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses and hold a virtual Task Force meeting to review the results of the study in **February/March 2013**.
- Following the administration of the validation survey and meeting with each Task Force, a technical report containing the results will be produced in **March/April 2013**.
- The BPS Board will review the technical report; if the Board finds that the survey validates a potential pharmacy specialty then a full petition will be sought from a sponsor or sponsors in **Spring 2013**.

To begin moving forward with the role delineation studies in Cardiology and Infectious Diseases Pharmacy, BPS will need the following:

- Assistance with the call for the names and resumes of subject matter experts in the areas of Cardiology and Infectious Diseases Pharmacy; (10 individuals will be selected by BPS to serve on each Practice Analysis Task Force). However, in addition to the Task Force, other subject matter experts can assist us by participating in a telephone interview, an e-mail-based external review of documents developed by the Task Force, or the pilot test of the survey. **An online Call for Nominations will be forwarded to you for your use and will be posted to the BPS website.**
- Name and e-mail information for pharmacists working in the fields of Cardiology and Infectious Diseases Pharmacy to participate in the validation surveys as previously described.

**Due Date: No later than October 31, 2012**

I would encourage communication with additional organizations in the proposed specialty areas that may have an interest in the BPS recognition process so that there can be a consolidation of resources, and coordination of information in the event that BPS issues a call for formal petitions in Cardiology and/or Infectious Diseases Pharmacy.

On behalf of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties, I want to thank you for your interest in improving the health and welfare of the public through specialty certification in pharmacy. I look forward to working with you throughout this process, and if you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

cc: Board of Pharmacy Specialties