

Current Specialty Options

- ▶ **Ambulatory Care Pharmacy**
Includes the provision of integrated, accessible healthcare services by pharmacists who are accountable for addressing medication needs and developing sustained partnerships with patients in the context of family and community
- ▶ **Nuclear Pharmacy**
Promotes public health through safe and effective use of radioactive drugs
- ▶ **Nutrition Support Pharmacy**
Addresses the care of patients receiving specialized parenteral or enteral nutrition
- ▶ **Oncology Pharmacy**
Targets the needs of patients with various malignant diseases and their complications
- ▶ **Pharmacotherapy**
Ensures the safe, appropriate and economical use of drugs often as part of a multidisciplinary treatment team
- ▶ **Psychiatric Pharmacy**
Specializes in the pharmaceutical support of patients with psychiatric disorders

Visit www.bpsweb.org for application requirements and materials, practice exams, preparation resources, test schedules and sites.

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties was established in 1976 and exists today as an autonomous division of the American Pharmacists Association. BPS has grown to be the premier post-licensure certification organization serving the pharmacy profession. Its principal responsibilities include:

- ▶ To grant recognition of appropriate pharmacy practice specialties based on criteria established by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.
- ▶ To establish standards for certification and recertification of pharmacists in recognized pharmacy practice specialties.
- ▶ To grant qualified pharmacists certification and recertification in recognized pharmacy practice specialties.
- ▶ To serve as a coordinating agency and information clearinghouse for organizations and pharmacists in recognized pharmacy practice specialties.
- ▶ To enhance public/consumer protection by developing effective certification programs for specialty practices in pharmacy.



The Board of Pharmacy Specialties was accredited in November 2008 by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This accreditation is based on BPS having demonstrated compliance with NCCA Standards of Accreditation of Certification Programs. NCCA is the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) and it accredits programs based on rigorous quality standards in the professional certification industry.

"Accreditation by NCCA is an important milestone in BPS' vision to be Pharmacy's premier specialty certification body" said Terry L. Schwinghammer, PharmD, BCPS, former Chair of the BPS Board.

bps[®]
Board of Pharmacy Specialties

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...shouldn't
YOU get Board
Certified ?

... Which Pharmacists Are Uniquely Qualified?

Board Certification through BPS--- the Board of Pharmacy Specialties--- has become recognized as the gold standard for determining which pharmacists are qualified to contribute at advanced practice levels. Such certification is key to fostering pharmacists' inevitable progression from distribution agents to integral members of the patient care team.

While there's already more in the modern pharmacopoeia than one mind can grasp, the horizons of medication therapy expand daily. In pharmacy,

as in all medical practice, specialization has become essential to optimal care.

Clinical skills simply must be targeted and verified to meet the needs of patients, employers, payers, providers and peers.



BPS Certification Benefits

PEER TO PEER RECOGNITION; PERSONAL, FINANCIAL ADVANCEMENT

- ▶ Differentiate your knowledge and skills from generalist pharmacists in order to:
 - Readily step into pharmacy's evolving position on the multidisciplinary treatment team
 - Provide more comprehensive and complex care to patients
 - Take advantage of preferential hiring and expanded responsibilities
 - Experience increased recognition from health care professionals
- ▶ A national managed care provider "prefers" and "encourages" certification for certain clinical positions
- ▶ Key federal agencies offer rewards in salary, promotions, and new practice opportunities
- ▶ For some organizations, the BPS credential is the *only* certification approved for special incentives

Why Special Skills Are Critical?

BPS specialty certification is the pharmacist's path to advancement in 21st century health care. As the complexities of patient care multiply, so will the increased need for skill development.

The changing roles could not be more clear. Medication Therapy Management, Collaborative Drug Therapy, and Disease State Management Programs all designate pharmacists as active participants on the health care team. Specialty certification signals exceptional knowledge and skill to provide these services. Its elite status inevitably will shift to necessity for those practitioners wanting to be part of the advanced pharmaceutical care team.

Through the rigorous standards mandated by BPS board certification and recertification, the specialty-credentialed pharmacist stands out as the most qualified to take on today's expanding professional expectations.

“ I envision credentialing in the future as a way to compensate pharmacists for services as providers, very similar to the credentials physicians achieve. ”

—Hildegard J. Berdine, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Professor,
School of Pharmacy Duquesne University

“ BPS certification offers a great opportunity for career enhancement through knowledge and professional advancement ”

—Jet Davis, RPh, BCNP
NuMedRX Solutions

