How to Pass the Board of Pharmacy Specialty Exams

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Brian G. Mitchell, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP
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Speaker Panel

Christine P. Aguilar, PharmD, BCPS
• PGY2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Resident
• Houston Methodist Hospital Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas

Brittany Florczykowski, PharmD, BCPS
• Cardiovascular Clinical Pharmacist
• Louis and Peaches Owen Heart Hospital at Trinity Mother Frances, Tyler, Texas

Brian G. Mitchell, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP
• Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Mental Health
• Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Houston, Texas

Leah R. Sanchez, PharmD, BCPS
• PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency
• Houston Methodist Hospital Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas

Objectives

• Identify the current board certifications and related eligibility requirements
• Explain the unique certifications offered through BPS certification exams
• Discuss tools and programs available to assist in preparing for board certification examinations
• Review Study Skills for taking the exam
• Identify skills needed to successfully pass a BPS certification exam
• Describe what to expect on the day of the examination
• Identify ways to utilize certification for career advancement
Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (BCACP)

Eligibility Criteria:
- Four years of practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in ambulatory care activities
  - OR
- PGY1 residency plus 1 additional year of practice with at least 50% of time spent in ambulatory care activities
  - OR
- Specialty (PGY2) residency in ambulatory care pharmacy
Critical Care Pharmacy
(1st Exam Fall 2015)

Eligibility Criteria:
- Four years of practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in critical care pharmacy activities
  OR
- PGY1 residency plus 2 additional years of practice with at least 50% of time spent in critical care pharmacy activities
  OR
- Specialty (PGY2) residency in critical care pharmacy

Nuclear Pharmacy (BCNP)

Eligibility Criteria:
- 4,000 hours of training/experience in nuclear pharmacy practice
  - Academic up to 2,000 hours:
    - Undergraduate courses in nuclear pharmacy
    - Postgraduate courses in nuclear pharmacy
    - MS or PhD degree in nuclear pharmacy: 2,000 hours
    - Completion of the Nuclear Pharmacy Certificate Program
      - Purdue University (477 hours) OR
      - The Ohio State University (214 hours) OR
      - Nuclear Education Online (NEO) Program (Univ. of New Mexico and Univ. of Arkansas, 250 hours)
  - Training/Practice up to 4,000 hours:
    - Residency in nuclear pharmacy
    - Internship to satisfy requirements of state boards of pharmacy
    - Nuclear pharmacy practice

Nutrition Support Pharmacy (BCNSP)

Eligibility Criteria:
- Three years of practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in nutrition support pharmacy activities
  OR
- Completion of a (PGY2) residency in nutrition support pharmacy
Oncology Pharmacy (BCOP)

Eligibility Criteria:
- Four years of practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in oncology pharmacy activities
  OR
- Specialty (PGY2) residency in oncology pharmacy plus one (1) additional year of practice with at least 50% of time spent in oncology pharmacy activities

Pediatric Pharmacy
(1st Exam Fall 2015)

Eligibility Criteria:
- Four years of practice experience, post-licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in pediatric pharmacy activities
  OR
- Completion of a PGY1 residency plus two (2) additional years of practice with at least 50% of time spent in pediatric pharmacy activities
  OR
- Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency in pediatric pharmacy

Pharmacotherapy (BCPS)

Eligibility Criteria:
- Three years of practice experience with ≥ 50% of time spent in pharmacotherapy activities
  OR
- Completion of an ASHP Accredited (or seeking accreditation) PGY1 residency
Psychiatry Pharmacy (BCPP)

Eligibility Criteria:
• Four years of practice with at least 50% of time spent in psychiatric pharmacy activities
  OR
• Specialty (PGY2) residency in psychiatric pharmacy plus 1 additional year of practice with at least 50% of time spent in psychiatric pharmacy activities

Added Qualifications (BCPS-AQ)
• Specialty under BCPS
  – Cardiology
  – Infectious Diseases
• Submission of application form and portfolio for review must be submitted to BPS by December 31st each year
• The application fee for initial conferral of Added Qualifications is $100 and the application fee for reconfirmation of Added Qualifications is $50
• The Portfolio Review Committee evaluates each portfolio according to standards determined during the petitioning process

PREPARING FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS
Live & Online Courses

- Pharmacotherapy
  - ACCP Updates in Therapeutics®: Pharmacotherapy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course (live, 5-day course & online)
  - ASHP Pharmacotherapy, Specialty Review Course and Recertification (live, 2-day course and online)
  - High-Yield Med Reviews® BCPS Q-Bank, Flashcards Database and Lectures

- Ambulatory Care
  - ACCP Updates in Therapeutics®: The Ambulatory Care Preparatory Review and Recertification Course (live, 5-day course and online)
  - ASHP-APhA Ambulatory Care Specialty Review Course and Recertification (live, 2-day course and online)
  - High-Yield Med Reviews® BCACP Q-Bank, Flashcards Database and Lectures

- Critical Care
  - ACCP & SCCM Review Course (details not yet known)

- Oncology
  - ACCP-ASHP Oncology Pharmacy Preparatory Review Course (live, 3-day course and online)
  - High-Yield Med Reviews® BCOP Q-Bank, Flashcards Database and Lectures
Live & Online Courses

- Psychiatry
  - College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
    BCPP Examination Preparation Course (online)
  - High-Yield Med Reviews® BCPP Q-Bank, Flashcards Database and Lectures

- Nutrition Support
  - American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) Adult & Pediatric Core Curriculum Books

- Nuclear
  - University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy Continuing Education Program

Study Tools

- High Yield Med Review Biostatistics Review for Board of Pharmacy Specialty Exams
  - 6 lecture, online series

- ACCP 2013 Pharmacotherapy Mock Exam
  - 200-question assessment with personal analysis of strengths and weaknesses and areas of needed study

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO STUDY?
Test Domain Examples

• Pharmacotherapy
  – Domain 1: Patient-specific Pharmacotherapy (60% of the examination)
  – Domain 2: Retrieval, generation, interpretation and dissemination of knowledge in pharmacotherapy (25% of the examination)
  – Domain 3: Systems and Population-based Pharmacotherapy (15% of the examination)

Test Domain Examples

• Oncology
  – Domain 1: Clinical Skills and Therapeutic Management (60% of the examination)
  – Domain 2: Generation, Interpretation, and Dissemination of Information (20% of the examination)
  – Domain 3: Guidelines, Policies, and Standards (15% of the examination)
  – Domain 4: Public Health and Advocacy (5% of the examination)

Study Tips

• Use your resources
• Give yourself plenty of time
• Study groups with colleagues
• Don’t cram the night before the exam
Taking the Exam

How to sign up

Testing Sites

- AMARILLO
- ARLINGTON
- AUSTIN
- BAYTOWN
- BROWNWOOD
- COMMERCE
- CORPUS CHRISTI
- DALLAS
- EL PASO
- EULESS
- FORT WORTH
- GALVESTON
- HOUSTON
- HUNTSVILLE

- IVYING
- LUBBOCK
- LUBBOCK
- NACOGDOCHES
- NEDERLAND
- PLANO
- RICHARDSON
- SAN ANTONIO
- VICTORIA
- WACO
- WEAVER
- WICHITA FALLS
Test Scheduling

- Spring 2014
  - Tests Administered: April 24-May 10
- Approval to test and schedule dates
  - Jan 9-Jan 31: Schedule test Feb 3-March 7
  - March 11-18: Schedule March 18-May 5
- The sooner you sign up, the greater chance you have preferred testing day

Week before the exam

- Review candidate’s guide
- Make sure you have reviewed practice tests
  - BPS practice test
  - Castle practice test
- Familiarize yourself with calculator

Morning of the exam

- Bring a government issued picture ID card and test confirmation email
- May consider bringing earplugs
- Bring a snack for break
I’m here.... Now what?

• 200 multiple choice questions on every exam
  - 100 questions in 2.5 hours
  - 45 min break: optional
• Scratch paper/dry erase paper provided

Online Exam Format

YOUR CAREER AND ADVANCEMENT
AFTER PASSING A BPS EXAMINATION
Questions? We have answers!