



Examination Specifications Nutrition Support Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCNSP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who address the clinical status, nutrition status, and direct care of patients receiving acute and/or chronic nutrition support, including parenteral and enteral nutrition
Program Purpose	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to optimize the safety and efficacy of nutrition support and the nutrition status of patients
Eligibility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the United States that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction • Current, active license or registration to practice pharmacy in the United States or another jurisdiction • One of the following, within the past 7 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least 4 years of specialty area practice with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline ○ Completion of PGY1 pharmacy residency and at least 2 years of specialty area practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline ○ Completion of PGY2 pharmacy residency in Nutrition Support Pharmacy <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;"><i>Residency programs must be accredited by or deemed candidate status by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) for PGY1, PGY2, and International Pharmacy Practice Residency Programs, or accredited by the Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board (CPRB) for year-1 programs.</i></p>
Examination Length	150 items, which includes 125 scored items and 25 unscored items
Administration Time	3 Hours and 45 Minutes
ECO Creation Date	August 2023

This document serves as examination specifications and certification scheme according to the respective requirements of the NCCA 2021 and ISO-IEC 17024:2012 standards. For more information about the BCNSP examination program, please refer to the candidates guide on the BPS website: www.bpsweb.org.

Examination Content Outline

1	Nutrition Support	21%
1A	Normal and Abnormal Nutrition	12%
1A1	Physiology and Pathophysiology of Nutrition (e.g., ingestion, digestion, absorption, metabolism, excretion, appetite)	
1A2	Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Homeostasis and Disorders	
1A3	Nutrition Requirements throughout the Lifecycle (e.g., pregnancy, pediatric, older adults)	
1A4	Nutrition Deficiencies and Toxicities	
1A5	Malnutrition	
1B	Nutrition Support Formulations and Delivery	9%
1B1	Parenteral Nutrition Sterile Compounding (e.g., USP <797>)	
1B2	Enteral Nutrition Formulations	
1B3	Nutrition Support Delivery Technology and Devices	
2	Therapeutics and Patient Management	53%
2A	Treatment Planning	18%
2A1	Nutrition Assessment	
2A2	Clinical Assessment (e.g., functional, cognitive, physical, laboratory analysis, diagnostic testing)	
2A3	Pharmacodynamics, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacogenomics	
2A4	Shared Decision-Making and Goals of Care	
2A5	Goals of Treatment (e.g., risk vs. benefit, time to benefit)	
2A6	Social Determinants of Health (e.g., health literacy, access to care)	
2A7	Practice Settings (e.g., critical/acute care, home healthcare, alternate care sites)	
2B	Therapeutic Implementation	17%
2B1	Enteral Nutrition	
2B2	Parenteral Nutrition	
2B3	Oral Nutrition	
2B4	Pharmacotherapy	
2B5	Non-Pharmacologic Treatments and Lifestyle Modification	
2B6	Interprofessional Care Coordination	
2B7	Patient and Caregiver Education and Counseling	
2C	Treatment Outcomes and Monitoring	18%
2C1	Therapeutic Targets and Endpoints	
2C2	Nutrition Status Monitoring	
2C3	Clinical Status Monitoring	
2C4	Adverse Events and Complications	
2C5	Drug-Drug, Nutrient-Nutrient, and Drug-Nutrient Interactions	
2C6	Adherence to Diet and Nutrition Support	
2C7	Medication Reconciliation and Optimization	

3	Professional Practice	26%
3A	Quality of Care	12%
3A1	Public Health and Preventative Care	
3A2	Continuity of Care (e.g., transitions of care, phases of care)	
3A3	Clinical Practice Guidelines (e.g., ASPEN, SCCM)	
3A4	Medication Safety and Safe Practices for Nutrition Support	
3A5	Ethics and Patient Advocacy	
3B	Practice Management	14%
3B1	Professional Practice Standards, Guidelines, Competencies, and Regulations	
3B2	Quality Management and Process Improvement	
3B3	Clinical Informatics (e.g., clinical decision support, CPOE, EHR-ACD interoperability)	
3B4	Pharmacoeconomics (e.g., reimbursement)	
3B5	Research Methods and Statistics	
3B6	Nutrition Information Resources (e.g., Oley Foundation, ASPEN, FDA, ASHP)	

The examination content outline is a product of a job analysis (aka role delineation study) that includes facilitation of discussions with a representative panel of 15-20 subject matter experts who identify competencies required for safe and effective pharmacy practice in this specialty area as well as a validation survey soliciting endorsement of the identified competencies from certified pharmacists in this specialty area. The job analysis process is conducted every 5 years to help ensure that the competencies in the examination content outline reflect current pharmacy practice in the specialty area.

Maintenance of Certification

Recertification Requirements	<p>Credential-holders will be required to maintain their certification over a 7-year period by completing one of the following recertification pathways:</p> <p><u>Option One: Recertification Examination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>BCNSP with certification beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Achieve a passing score on the examination • <u>BCNSP with certification beginning January 1, 2024 or later:</u> Achieve a passing score on the examination and complete 20 units of self-reported continuing professional development (CPD) <p><u>Option Two: Professional Development Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>BCNSP with certification beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Complete 100 units of BPS-approved, assessed continuing education (CE) provided by the professional development programs offered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purdue University College of Pharmacy • <u>BCNSP with certification beginning January 1, 2024 or later:</u> Complete 20 units of self-reported continuing professional development (CPD) and 80 units of BPS-approved, assessed CE provided by the program offered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purdue University College of Pharmacy <p><i>To maintain an active certification in good standing, a minimum of two units of BPS-approved, assessed CPE or self-reported CPD must be reported each year. Credential-holders may participate in recertification from any BPS-approved programs identified for the credential.</i></p>
Ethics and Professionalism	<p>The Board of Pharmacy Specialties ascribes to the belief that certification carries an obligation for ethical behavior and professionalism necessary in all conduct. Candidates or certificants who are found to have exhibited unethical behavior or lack of professionalism may be prevented from pursuing certification or may be subject to suspension or withdrawal of certification, at the discretion of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.</p> <p>Please refer to the BPS Ethics and Professionalism Policy: https://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ethics.pdf</p>