



Examination Specifications Oncology Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Oncology Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCOP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who design, implement, monitor, and modify pharmacotherapeutic treatments; manage adverse events or clinical situations associated with cancer, cancer therapies, and non-malignant hematology; and facilitate and/or evaluate clinical trials, research, and investigational drugs
Program Purpose	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to provide treatment and education that optimizes safety and outcomes for individuals receiving treatment for cancer or non-malignant hematologic conditions, palliative and supportive care, and/or survivorship care
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 residency in Oncology 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	February 2022

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 BCOP examination program, please refer to the candidates guide on the BPS website: www.bpsweb.org.

Examination Content Outline

1	Oncology Diagnosis and Testing	23%
1A	Oncology Diagnosis	9%
1A1	Cancer Etiology and Pathophysiology	
1A2	Types of Cancer	
1A3	Cancer-Related Molecular Biology	
1A4	Mechanisms of Tumor Resistance	
1B	Oncology Testing	9%
1B1	Genomics (e.g., genomic alterations, gene amplification, types of mutations)	
1B2	Prognostic and Predictive Testing (e.g., IPI, FLIPI, Oncotype DX)	
1B3	Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS)	
1B4	Biomarker Testing (e.g., PDL1, TMB, TPS, CPS)	
1C	Cancer Detection and Prevention	5%
1C1	Cancer Detection (e.g., screening frequency, early detection)	
1C2	Cancer Prevention and Risk-Reduction	
1C3	Cancer-Support and Cancer-Education Resources	
2	Therapeutics and Patient Management	49%
2A	Treatment Planning	16%
2A1	Treatment of Cancer	
2A2	Treatment of Non-Malignant Hematologic Disorders (e.g., aplastic anemia, ITP, sickle cell)	
2A3	Palliative and Supportive Care	
2A4	End-of-Life Care	
2A5	Survivorship Care	
2A6	Social Determinants of Health (e.g., health literacy, socioeconomic status, cultural practices and preferences, access to care, caregiver support)	
2A7	Clinical Standards and Guidelines (e.g., NCCN, ASCO)	
2B	Therapeutic Implementation	16%
2B1	Pharmacotherapy	
2B2	Non-Pharmacologic Treatment Modalities (e.g., surgery, radiation therapy)	
2B3	Pharmacogenomics	
2B4	Patient and Caregiver Education	
2B5	Interdisciplinary Care Coordination (e.g., transitions of care, specialty pharmacy services, patient assistance programs)	
2B6	Drug Administration (e.g., dosage forms, routes of delivery)	
2B7	Complementary and Alternative Therapies	
2C	Cancer Outcomes and Treatment Monitoring	17%
2C1	Drug Interactions (with foods, supplements, laboratory tests, and other drugs)	
2C2	Mechanisms of Drug Resistance	
2C3	Toxicity Prevention, Monitoring, and Management	
2C4	Oncologic Emergencies	
2C5	Complications of Cancer Therapy	
2C6	Complications of Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy	
2C7	Long-Term Complications of Cancer Therapy	

3	Professional Practice	28%
3A	Clinical Trials and Research	14%
3A1	Research Methods (e.g., study design, validity)	
3A2	Statistics (e.g., statistical power, number needed to treat, results interpretation)	
3A3	Research Outcomes (e.g., clinical benefit, patient reported outcomes)	
3A4	Laws and Ethics associated with Research and Clinical Trials	
3A5	Clinical Trial Design in Oncology (e.g., phases, objectives, endpoints)	
3A6	Institutional Review Boards (IRB) and Independent Ethics Committees (IECs)	
3A7	Drug Approval Process	
3A8	Investigational Drug Management	
3B	Practice Management	14%
3B1	Quality Management (e.g., medication use evaluation, root cause analysis, patient safety)	
3B2	Medication Inventory Management (e.g., pharmacoeconomics, procurement, allocation, tracking)	
3B3	Drug Handling and Disposal (e.g., USP<800>, radiopharmaceuticals)	
3B4	Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Programs	
3B5	Compassionate Use Processes (e.g., IND process, right-to-try)	
3B6	Biosimilar Medications	
3B7	Professional Practice Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations (e.g., NIOSH, ASCO-ONS)	

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>BCOP with certification beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Achieve a passing score on the examination • <u>BCOP 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>BCOP 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"> ○ The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) in collaboration with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) ○ The Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) • <u>BCOP 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"> ○ The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in collaboration with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) ○ The Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) <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>