



Examination Specifications Pediatric Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCPPS
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria and who design, implement, monitor, and modify pharmacotherapeutic treatments for pediatric patients
Program Purpose	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to optimize safety and outcomes for the pediatric patient population
Examination Length	150 items, which includes 125 scored items and 25 unscored items
Administration Time	3 Hours and 45 Minutes
ECO Creation Date	September 2022

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

Eligibility Requirements

An individual must meet all three requirements listed:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- A current, active license/registration to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- One of the following within the past 7 years:
 - At least 4 years of Pediatric Pharmacy practice experience¹, with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline
 - Successful completion of PGY1 pharmacy residency², plus at least 2 years of Pediatric Pharmacy practice experience¹ with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline
 - Successful completion of PGY2 pharmacy residency² in Pediatric Pharmacy

¹All practice experience must be completed post-licensure/registration as a pharmacist. All applicants intending to demonstrate eligibility for any BPS certification examination utilizing the practice experience pathway must provide an attestation from their employer, on company letterhead, that verifies this experience accurately represents at least 50% of time spent in some or all of the activities defined by the applicable certification content outline. In addition, this practice experience must have occurred within the seven years immediately preceding the application. For more information, [click here](#). A sample employer verification letter is available [here](#).

²Residency 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.

The rationale for the appropriateness of the requirements for BPS certification programs are based upon the following:

- BPS recognizes individuals who graduate from a recognized school or college of pharmacy within the candidate's jurisdiction. Those jurisdictions recognize and evaluate programs on the extent to which it accomplishes its stated goals and is consistent with the concept that pharmacy is a unique, personal service profession in the health science field. In the United States, the responsibility for recognizing schools and colleges of pharmacy falls to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).
- The rationale for requiring licensure or registration of pharmacists within their jurisdiction is based upon the fact that for public protection, all pharmacists must be licensed or registered. This is considered a baseline requirement to be a pharmacist specialist. In the United States, BPS recognizes the licensure process administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) aims to ensure the public's health and safety through its pharmacist license transfer and pharmacist competence assessment programs. NABP's member boards of pharmacy are grouped into [eight districts](#) that include all 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Bahamas, and all 10 Canadian provinces.
- The experiential component is required to help assure practical application of components of the specialty knowledge being certified. There are multiple pathways to meet the practice experience requirement. The faster eligibility pathways recognize accredited residencies through the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP). The ASHP residency accreditation program identifies and grants public recognition to practice sites having pharmacy residency training programs that have been evaluated and found to meet the qualifications of one of the ASHP's residency accreditations standards. Thus, accreditation of a pharmacy residency program provides a means of assurance to residency applicants that a program meets certain basic requirements and is, therefore, an acceptable site for postgraduate training in pharmacy practice in organized health care.
- Passing the BPS pharmacy specialty examination helps assure knowledge consistent with the validated content outline for the BPS specialty.

The appropriateness of the BPS program requirements are consistent with the Council on Credentialing in Pharmacy's Resource Paper titled: Scope of Contemporary Pharmacy Practice: Roles, Responsibilities, and Functions of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians.

Examination Content Outline

1	Pediatric Patient Population	26%
1A	Pediatric Patient Characteristics	11%
1A1	Normal Growth and Development	
1A2	Developmental Pharmacokinetics	
1A3	Pathophysiology	
1A4	Anthropometrics (e.g., growth curves, BSA)	
1A5	Pregnancy and Lactation	
1B	Pediatric Patient-Care Considerations	15%
1B1	Common Health Issues in the Pediatric Population	
1B2	Immunizations	
1B3	Pediatric-Focused Nutrition and Hydration	
1B4	Age and Developmentally Appropriate Interviewing Techniques	
1B5	Laboratory Practices (e.g., blood conservation, timing)	
1B6	Pediatric Calculations (e.g., fluid requirements, renal function estimates)	
2	Therapeutics and Patient Management	50%
2A	Treatment Planning	16%
2A1	Patient History Evaluation	
2A2	Diagnosis and Diagnostic Testing	
2A3	Pharmacodynamics and Pharmacokinetics	
2A4	Pharmacogenomics	
2A5	Goals of Care and Treatment	
2A6	Social Determinants of Health	
2A7	Pediatric-Specific Doses and Dosage Forms	
2B	Therapeutic Implementation	18%
2B1	Pharmacotherapy (e.g., medications, supplements, herbals)	
2B2	Non-Pharmacologic Treatments and Lifestyle Modification	
2B3	Interprofessional Care Coordination	
2B4	Medication Reconciliation and Optimization	
2B5	Medication Delivery (e.g., formulations, routes of administration, delivery devices, anatomic alterations)	
2B6	Education, Counseling, and Support Resources for Patients, Family, and Caregiver	
2B7	Pediatric Emergency Response (e.g., NRP, PALS)	
2C	Treatment Outcomes and Monitoring	16%
2C1	Therapeutic Targets and Endpoints	
2C2	Therapeutic and Physiological Monitoring	
2C3	Adverse Drug Events	
2C4	Drug Interactions	
2C5	Laboratory Assessment for Pediatric Population	
2C6	Pediatric-Specific Scoring Systems (e.g., CAPD, WAT-1)	
3	Professional Practice	24%
3A	Quality of Care	12%
3A1	Population Health	
3A2	Preventative Care	
3A3	Continuity of Care	
3A4	Clinical Practice Guidelines	
3A5	Medication Safety	

3B	Practice Management	12%
3B1	Professional Practice Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations	
3B2	Ethics and Patient Advocacy	
3B3	Research Methods and Statistics	
3B4	Pediatric Subjects Research (e.g., IRB/IEC, participant and caregiver consent)	
3B5	Pharmacoeconomics (e.g., cost-containment, formulary management)	
3B6	Clinical Informatics	
3B7	Emergency Preparedness and Drug Shortage Resources	

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	Credential-holders will be required to maintain their certification over a 7-year period by completing one of the following recertification pathways: <u>Option One: Recertification Examination</u> • <u>BCPPS with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Achieve a passing score on the examination • <u>BCPPS with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2024 or later:</u> Achieve a passing score on the specialty certification examination and report 20 units of continuing professional development (CPD) (assessed CPE can also satisfy this requirement) by the end of the 7-year recertification cycle <u>Option Two: Professional Development Program</u> • <u>BCPPS with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Complete 100 units of BPS-approved, assessed continuing pharmacy education (CPE) provided by the professional development programs offered by: ○ The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in collaboration with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) ○ The Pediatric Pharmacy Association (PPA) • <u>BCPPS with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2024 or later:</u> Earn 100 units, comprised of at least 80 units of assessed CPE from BPS-approved professional development programs and up to 20 units of self-reported CPD (assessed CPE can also satisfy this requirement), by the end of the 7-year recertification cycle. Assessed CPE is provided by the professional development programs offered by: ○ The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in collaboration with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) ○ The Pediatric Pharmacy Association (PPA) <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>
Ethics and Professionalism	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. Please refer to the BPS Ethics and Professionalism Policy: https://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ethics.pdf