



The Credential

The Mark of Excellence in Geriatric Care

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CGPs MEET IN VEGAS

Forty board-certified geriatric pharmacists (CGPs) gathered in an exclusive session just for CGPs during Geriatrics '08, ASCP's 30th Midyear Conference and Exhibition, in Las Vegas at Caesars Palace on May 15th. CCGP Immediate Past Chair William Simonson moderated the session.



Left to right: Brad Tice, Bill Simonson, Denise Kehoe

Simonson first introduced the session sponsor, Brad Tice, PharmD, Chief Clinical Officer, and Denise Kehoe, Vice President of Business Development, of PharmMD Solutions, LLC. PharmMD Solutions (www.PharmMD.com) is committed to improve human lives and bottom lines through better education, better communication, better coordination — medication management (MTM) — and wants to provide a higher level of MTM with its network of pharmacists who are CGPs or have demonstrated fulfillment of the majority of the modules at www.GeriatricPharmacyReview.com.

Tice introduced the session speaker, Ken Tuell, RPh, CGP, who is manager of LTC Clinical Guidance Organization for Humana, Inc. The session focused on the opportunities for providing medication therapy management services and opportunities available in managed health care.

PharmMD Solutions, LLC was also the sponsor of a Geriatrics '08 educational session entitled "Medication Therapy Management Services: What Do We Know So Far?"

GERIATRIC CERTIFIED PHARMACISTS AND MANAGED CARE

- by Lisa Hettich, CCGP Commissioner



When I graduated from pharmacy school, I knew I wanted to be a "consultant pharmacist." I fell in love with the seniors and the clinical role I have in improving their lives. It was during my days as a consultant pharmacist that I began to understand that "what we do"

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CGPs DOWN UNDER, TOO

Certified Geriatric Pharmacists of Australia are accredited for medication management reviews (MMRs). "The internationally recognised CCGP certification process provides an outstanding professional development opportunity for pharmacists to demonstrate their experience and skills in providing pharmaceutical care for the elderly. With increasing numbers of aged persons in the population, the management of chronic illness and community based care has a greater focus within health care services. Medication use is a significant component of care and thus there is an increasing demand for pharmacists who are appropriately skilled to provide pharmaceutical care for older people in hospital, domiciliary and residential care settings. This will provide professionally rewarding opportunities for pharmacists to participate in existing and emerging clinical services, such as medication management review programs."

- from the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

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(i.e. effectively utilizing our skills, knowledge and expertise in geriatric pharmacy to minimize medication-related problems) is a specialized skill set within pharmacy. So, I (along with many of you) began the process of "repackaging" my skill set into Senior Care Pharmacy (SCP) – which for me, was like turning on a light switch ... suddenly I saw opportunities everywhere simply by changing my perspective! I earned my CGP and have maintained it due to the distinction it provides me within this vast array of opportunities. Those that I serve value the credentials and the expertise that they imply so that I may be given the opportunity to care for their pharmacy needs.

One of the opportunities I have taken advantage of is in the managed care industry and Medicare Part D. With the institution of Part D in January 2006 – and specifically Medication Therapy Management (MTM) – the industry is ripe for the skills of qualified Senior Care Pharmacists. Not having "grown up" in managed care, I knew I had (and still have) much to learn about the managed care industry. My understanding of this industry thus far is that it is fundamentally based upon risk management. It is exciting to marry the need (i.e. seniors' medication risk management) with one very viable solution (i.e. qualified Senior Care Pharmacists). The CGP credential is one way managed care can identify those providers that are most likely to provide them the positive outcomes they demand in an efficient manner.

Medicare Part D MTM is a "toddler" still in need of much development ... but one whose growth is headed in the right direction. I believe Part D MTM is the "foot in the door" allowing pharmacists an opportunity to prove the value of clinical geriatric pharmacy specialists. MTM is a general practice – and one of the ways it is being practiced is through Part D; however, as pharmacists we should not limit the use of our skills to only include Medicare Part D. There is a whole world of opportunity in MTM – both in and out of Medicare Part D.

Recently, a group of CGPs were able to

meet with some of the leadership within the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) to discuss the value of the CGP credential to managed care. The message was very well received and these discussions will be on-going as we continue to spread the message of the value of the credential to managed care and other industries as well. It is exciting to be a part of the movement to increase the managed care industry's awareness of CGP's and the impact they can have across their industry. This industry is one that very much understands risk management and return on investment so they naturally understand the value a CGP can bring to the table. Managed care decision-makers – often for the first time – are learning of CGPs and considering their role within their industry.

Managed care is faced with a challenge to effectively manage a rapidly growing elderly population. We all know the number of seniors with chronic conditions requiring multiple medications is growing at a staggering rate. Managed care's task is to come up with a way to appropriately care for these needs in a manner that is clinically sound and financially feasible. It is quite a task to undertake given the massive number of seniors and the cost of properly caring for each of these individuals – all with individual needs. It only makes common sense to involve an "expert" in senior care to help guide the direction and decisions managed care is making. Medications used appropriately are a wonderful investment often saving thousands of dollars in medical spend. On the other hand, medications used inappropriately can certainly cost thousands of dollars in unnecessary medical expenses. It's not rocket science that an expert in senior care pharmacy would be of value – particularly a senior care pharmacist expert recognized by the CGP credential.

In managed care there are many arenas an expert in geriatric pharmacy would be of value. This is certainly not an all-inclusive listing – but here are some examples:

- The design of senior clinical programs
- Pharmacy research specific to geriatric pharmacy

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CGP EXAM CONTENT MAP UPDATED WITH JOB ANALYSIS SURVEY RESULTS

The Exam Development Committee of the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy (CCGP) completed their job analysis of pharmacists practicing in senior care environments this spring. The job analysis is conducted every five years to validate that the areas included in the certified geriatric pharmacist (CGP) exam are still valid to current practice. Based on the results of the job analysis, the CGP Exam Content Map, which lists the breadth and depth of the content to be covered in the exam questions, is revised.

This is the third time the job analysis has been conducted. This time the committee asked other associations and appropriate groups to invite their members to participate by completing a survey of practice tasks and knowledge needs to successfully practice in their setting. In addition to ASCP members and CGPs, pharmacist-members of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), American Geriatrics Society (AGS), College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP), National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NCPCO), and the Veterans Administration (VA) participated if their practice was primarily in geriatrics. This outreach was successful resulting in well over 300 responses, a much higher number of participants than the last survey.

The committee analyzed the results of the survey with our psychometric consultants to revise the current content map. Overall there was little change, indicating the validity of the current knowledge content areas. However, a new section focusing on the role of the pharmacist as educator has been developed based on the survey findings. This section includes areas such as identifying educational needs, designing education, and evaluating outcome of educational activities. The committee will create exam questions for this new section this summer.

TELL US YOUR STORY

We would like to hear from you about how your certification has contributed to the care of your patients and your practice. In other words, we believe you have ‘stories’ that will emphasize the importance of board-certification and encourage your colleagues to join you in being a distinctly credentialed professional qualified to provide geriatric pharmacy care.

Send an email message to info@ccgp.org

AUGUST 25 DEADLINES

CALL FOR CGP AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominate a deserving colleague today for the CCGP’s Excellence in Geriatric Pharmacy Award! This award recognizes the Certified Geriatric Pharmacist who fosters the principles of good pharmacy practice, demonstrates excellence in geriatric patient care, and promotes the value and rigorous standards established by CCGP. This award will be presented at Senior Care Pharmacy ’08, ASCP’s 39th Annual Meeting and Exhibition, in New Orleans. Previous award recipients are:

Joseph Gruber, RPh, CGP, FASCP - 2001
Sandra Brownstein, PharmD, CGP, FASCP - 2002
Steve Aldridge, RPh, MAd, CGP, FASCP - 2003
Mark A. Stratton, PharmD, CGP, BCPS, FASHP - 2004
Monica L. Mathys, PharmD, CGP - 2005
Greg D’Amour, RPh, PharmD, PhC, CGP, FASCP - 2006
Terrence E. O’Shea, BS Pharm, PharmD, CGP - 2007

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CCGP COMMISSIONERS

The Commission for Geriatric Pharmacy (CCGP) is seeking nominations of Certified Geriatric Pharmacists for election to positions on the CCGP Board of Commissioners. Newly elected Commissioners will serve a three-year term that commences December 1, 2008.

If you or someone you know is a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist with a minimum of five years experience in senior care or consultant pharmacy practice and is willing to provide leadership, time, and energy to governance of the Commission, please let us hear from you.

CALL FOR EXAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CCGP seeks volunteers for appointment to the Exam Development Committee (EDC). EDC members participate in item writing for the certification exam, evaluate the exam administration results, and serve as advisors concerning the examination and administration of the certification process. Volunteers must be certified geriatric pharmacists.

For more information, contact Tracy Scott at
tscott@ascp.com

All nominations must be received
by August 25, 2008.

49 PHARMACISTS ACHIEVE BOARD-CERTIFICATION IN GERIATRIC PHARMACY

Between April 2008 and June 2008, 49 pharmacists successfully completed the Certification Examination in Geriatric Pharmacy for the first time, or recertified by either re-taking the examination or completing the Professional Development Program. Of these 49, 15 were recertification candidates.

Wayne L. Atkinson, RPh, CGP, Chairman of the CCGP Board of Commissioners, congratulated the new CGPs on “demonstrating a level of knowledge, training, experience, and skills for providing comprehensive pharmaceutical care to the nation’s senior population. You and your employers can be justifiably proud of this accomplishment.”

“This class represents the continuing growth in the number of pharmacists to almost 1,800 who have earned the Certified Geriatric Pharmacist credential. We are especially pleased with this growth in light of the Institute of Medicine’s recent report entitled “Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce.” This report mentions pharmacists 57 times and makes recommendations addressing the roles of certification and other mechanisms to increase the number of health care professionals with special expertise in geriatrics. CGPs are clearly in sync with the workforce report!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Judith M. Alexander, CGP
Max W. Allen, CGP
Louise A. Borst, CGP
Colleen B. Brezden, CGP
Brenda M. Bruinooge, CGP
Marian D. Chodnicki, CGP*
Marc L. Cook, CGP*
Jeffrey J. Custis, CGP*
Kirk V. Daurie, CGP
Dawn R. Davis, CGP
Haeseon S. Eom, CGP
Erica L. Estus, CGP
Jill R. Fetter, CGP
Diane L. Fusco, CGP*

Krista M. Gagnon, CGP
Daniel Gurney, CGP
Bobbie H. Hall, CGP*
Jill Hannotte, CGP
Maha Hassan, CGP
Maria A. Hawkins-White, CGP*
Gabrielle Ho, CGP
Douglas F. Hoover, CGP
Michelle D. Huber, CGP
Danny L. Icenhour, CGP
Richard C. Januszewski, CGP*
Wendy L. Johnson-Deitemeyer, CGP
Dawn S. Knudsen, CGP

Steven B. Levy, CGP*
Sandra McClure Bradish, CGP
Jennifer K. Michailides
Lainie L. Miller, CGP*
Mai Nguyen, CGP
Linh D. Nguyen, CGP
Theresa A. Oluwasusi, CGP
Salah Osman, CGP
Jennifer Prather, CGP
Maha Saad, CGP*
Margaret A. Sgritta, CGP*
Brian A. Snyder, CGP*
Susan E. Tardif, CGP
Julie A. Testman, CGP

Brenda K. Trimmer, CGP*
Erik M. Tubolino, CGP
Maureen C. Vieau, CGP
Jocelyn T. Whalen, CGP
Bradley R. Williams, CGP*
Kenneth H. Wong, CGP*
Audrey E. Yi, CGP
Lisa M. Zurek, CGP

*** Certified Geriatric Pharmacists who successfully completed the requirements for recertification.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RECENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The CCGP Board of Commissioners met in Alexandria on May 29-30 to tend to the governance, planning, and oversight needs of the Commission. Highlights were:

- Formation of CCGP’s Assisted Living Focus Group chaired by commissioner Jag Khatter, to build awareness of the role and value of CGPs to assisted living communities to increase residents’ length of stay
- Selection of ASCP as CCGP’s exclusive educational partner through May 31, 2013, for the operation of the Professional Development Program (PDP), the alternative pathway to recertification for CGPs, requiring 75 hours of continuing education; and permitting a two-year transition period for ASCP to expand the on-line modules at www.GeriatricPharmacyReview.com to the full 75 hours of CE.
- Appointment of the 2008 Nominating Committee: Bill Simonson, Chair, Lisa Hettich, Jane Huff, Jag Khatter, and Brad Williams.
- The motion carried to commend the Examination Development Committee and chair Dianne Tobias for their excellent work completing the five-year practice analysis and revision of the content map.
- Commendation of Exam Development Committee, chaired by Dianne Tobias, for their excellent work and completing the practice analysis and revision of the contact page.

DATES TO REMEMBER AND OPTIONS TO RECERTIFY

Registration Deadlines to take the CGP Exam

- Register by October 31, 2008 to take the exam by November 30, 2008

Due to so few candidates for the paper-based exam coupled with rising costs for its administration, the paper-based exam will not be offered on November 19, 2008 in New Orleans, LA as was previously announced.

Two Options to Recertify

CCGP requires all Certified Geriatric Pharmacists (CGPs) to recertify every five years. Recertification assures the public and the profession that CCGP-certified pharmacists undergo periodic evaluation to verify that their knowledge and skills are maintained at a level comparable to newly Certified Geriatric Pharmacists.

To recertify, an individual must be licensed to practice pharmacy and successfully complete one of two methods:

1. Achieve a passing score on the multiple-choice, 150-question CCGP Certification Examination; or
2. Earn 75 continuing education hours over five years through the Professional Development Program (PDP) for CGP Recertification. CGP has designated the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) as the exclusive provider of the PDP for CGP Recertification. This program's content is directly related to the content map from which the exam questions are developed. In addition to the online study at www.GeriatricPharmacyReview.com, you are required to complete two live workshops: "Clinical Update for the Geriatric Pharmacist" and "Geriatric Assessment for the Senior Care Pharmacist." For a description of these courses visit www.ascp.com/education/certification/ and scroll down to the recertification section.

CGP-PDP Workshop Information for 2008 Clinical Update for the Geriatric Pharmacist Workshop

- November 18, 2008 in conjunction with Senior Care Pharmacy '08, ASCP's 39th Annual Meeting and Exhibition (registration opens on or about July 7, 2008)

Geriatric Assessment for the Senior Care Pharmacist Workshop

- November 17-18, 2008 in conjunction with Senior Care Pharmacy '08, ASCP's 39th Annual Meeting and Exhibition (registration opens on or about July 7, 2008)

Class sizes are limited, so register today!

For more information, visit www.ascp.com/education or call (703) 739-1300 ext. 119 or 130

To take the required online courses, visit www.GeriatricPharmacyReview.com

GERIATRIC CERTIFIED PHARMACISTS AND MANAGED CARE

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- MTM
- Customer service
- P&T committees reviewing geriatric medications
- Formulary design for senior plans
- Cost of care management
- Case management for seniors

One of my roles as a CGP is to continue to increase the awareness of the credential and managed care is one arena that we are making great progress within.

Being an expert in senior care pharmacy is a skill – something we as pharmacists have chosen to develop. It is valuable in many practice areas and is personally rewarding. Like all skills, it must continually be refined, updated and sharpened to maintain its value. The CGP is one way we can distinguish ourselves as being Board Certified in Geriatric Pharmacy. I encourage us all to continue to develop our skill and share with others - across many industries – the value of the CGP credential.