

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**CGP Credential Transition to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties**  
**Visit for More Details: <http://www.ccgp.org/bpstransition>**

*Last updated: July 13, 2017*

**NEWS:**

On July 12, 2017, the Board of Pharmacy Specialties voted to make a change in the eligibility criteria for Board certification in geriatric pharmacy practice. This change brings the geriatric program criteria in alignment with other BPS programs. The number of years of experience remains the same at two years. The new language is highlighted in yellow below:

- 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.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of two (2) years of practice experience (post-pharmacist licensure) with at least 50% of time spent in geriatric pharmacy activities as defined by the Geriatric Pharmacy Content Outline. \*\*Practice experience should be from within the past seven years prior to the application date.

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**REMINDER:**

Candidates who apply for the geriatric certification examination by September 15, 2017 must complete administration of the examination by the end of the October/November 2017 test window. After 2017, a new application process will be used for the geriatric examination that will be administered beginning with the Spring 2018 test window. Those who submit applications in 2017 and do not take the examination in 2017 will not automatically be carried over to the next exam administration in 2018.

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**Introduction**

The Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy dissolved at the end of December 2016 and transferred the Certified Geriatric Pharmacist credential to the portfolio of pharmacist certifications of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. The transition is still in progress. As information becomes available, this Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated to provide the most current news.

**1. What is the timeline for the transition?**

The year of 2017 is a transition year with the geriatric certification examination still being administered through test centers of AMP/PSI, the company used by CCGP. Four test windows

will still be available in 2017 for administration of the CGP examination. The geriatric examination will continue to be the 150-item examination used by CCGP through the end of 2017.

Pharmacists who become certified in in 2017 will not pay the Certification Administration Fee in 2017. Instead, this fee will be billed on an annual basis beginning in May 2018 according to the normal schedule used by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. The certificates issued to pharmacists who become certified in 2017 will come from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties and will have a seven-year certification cycle. The expiration date will be December 31, 2024 for all pharmacists certified in 2017, regardless of which test window is used for taking the geriatric examination.

Pharmacists who become newly certified in geriatrics in 2017, and those who renew their geriatric credential in 2017, will not be able to begin accumulating continuing education credits toward recertification for the next cycle until January 1, 2018. The BPS certification cycle is seven years in length. BPS uses December 31 as the expiration date for all credentials, regardless of the initial date of certification. The extra months prior to January 1 of the official beginning of the cycle cannot be used to accumulate continuing education credits for the next cycle.

By 2018, the geriatric examination should be fully integrated into the BPS structure. The geriatric examination will be administered under the BPS structure with the BPS test company, using the two test windows (Spring and Fall) in which BPS examinations are administered. The geriatric examination will be 175 items, with four-option multiple-choice format. The role delineation study (job analysis) for the geriatric examination was conducted in 2017, so the 2018 examination will have a new content outline derived from the 2017 job analysis. The BPS Geriatric Specialty Council was appointed in June 2017 and will begin work in early 2018.

## **2. What will the credential be called?**

The Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP) credential became the Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) credential on January 1, 2017. Effective immediately, Certified Geriatric Pharmacists can use the BCGP designation. Either designation (CGP or BCGP) can be used until January 1, 2018 as supplies of business cards, etc. are consumed.

Pharmacists who certify or recertify on or after January 1, 2017 will receive a certificate from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties with the designation “Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist.” All pharmacists who earned the CGP credential prior to January 2017 will receive a BPS certificate in early 2018 when the integration of the geriatric credential is complete.

## **3. How many hours of continuing education will be needed for recertification after the transition to BPS?**

The Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy required 75 credit hours of professional development over the five-year certification cycle for recertification through the Professional Development Program. This amounted to 15 credit hours per year. The Board of Pharmacy Specialties has a seven-year certification cycle. The same equivalent annual amount of continuing education would be 105 credit hours over the seven-year certification cycle. This will be rounded to 100 hours per seven years to be consistent with other BPS certification programs, but the amount of continuing education will be essentially equivalent.

**4. Will the same continuing education providers be used after the transition to BPS?**

Yes. The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists will both continue to serve as continuing education providers for recertification through the professional development program for geriatric certification. Agreements are in place for them to continue through May 2021.

**5. How will the CCGP five-year certification cycle and the BPS seven-year certification cycle be reconciled for existing certified pharmacists?**

The transition is expected to be fairly seamless. Certified Geriatric Pharmacists should continue to recertify in the same way as before, either by taking the CGP examination or by completing the credit hours of continuing education for the Professional Development Program. Pharmacists who became certified or recertified before the end of 2016 will keep their same expiration date and remain on a five-year certification cycle. These pharmacists are expected to complete 75 credit hours over the five-year period before they recertify if they recertify by the Professional Development Program.

Certified Geriatric Pharmacists with an expiration date in 2017 may also recertify by examination or by Professional Development Program. Those who recertify in 2017 should pay the \$400 recertification fee and will be placed on a seven-year certification cycle. All pharmacists who renew successfully in 2017 will receive a certificate with an expiration date of December 31, 2024.

Note that because of the transition, those pharmacists who are due for renewal near the beginning of 2017 are receiving nearly a full year of extra certification. To avoid giving these pharmacists an unfair advantage in accumulating continuing education for the next renewal, pharmacists who are due for renewal in 2017 will not be permitted to begin collecting continuing education towards the next renewal cycle until January 1, 2018.

**6. The Certification Administration Fees are different for CCGP and BPS. How will these be reconciled for existing certified pharmacists?**

CCGP charged a Certification Administration Fee of \$250 per five-year cycle (average \$50/year). BPS charges a Certification Administration Fee of \$125 per year for six out of seven years of the certification cycle (average \$107 per year). However, BPS only charges one Administration Fee

regardless of the number of credentials a pharmacist holds. Someone who has another BPS credential plus BCGP would pay only one Administration Fee instead of two separate fees.

Pharmacists who hold two or more credentials, therefore, will save money overall with the consolidation of CCGP and BPS. In addition, although BPS has a higher Administration Fee, they charge the \$400 renewal fee only once every 7 years instead of every 5 years. So the renewal fee works out to \$57 per year instead of \$80 per year. For pharmacists with a single geriatric credential, the net difference per year is only slightly higher overall with the transition to BPS.

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties bills their certified pharmacists for the Certification Administration Fee on an annual basis each May. Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacists will be included in this annual billing beginning in May 2018. Pharmacists who became initially certified in 2017 will pay the normal fee of \$125 per year beginning in 2018.

Pharmacists who are due for renewal of their geriatric credential on or after September 1, 2017 will pay the \$400 renewal fee, but will not pay any Certification Administration Fee until May 2018. They will then pay the normal fee of \$125 per year beginning in 2018.

Pharmacists who are due for renewal of their geriatric credential between January 1, 2017 and August 31, 2017 will pay the \$400 renewal fee and the normal CCGP \$250 Certification Administration Fee, unless they hold an additional certification from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. Those who are dually certified are already paying the \$125 Annual Fee.

Pharmacists who are currently certified and have pre-paid Certification Administration Fees will be credited for these prepaid funds. Instead of \$125 per year, a lower amount per year may be charged until these prepaid funds are consumed.

#### **7. What happens to the CCGP staff after the transition to BPS?**

Existing CCGP staff members moved to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. The presence of these staff at BPS after the merger should help ensure continuity of the geriatric credential through ongoing collaboration between BPS staff and former CCGP staff.

#### **8. How do I get information or assistance with questions about the geriatric examination or recertification?**

**E-mail:**

E-mail inquiries about geriatric certification should be directed to: [info@bpsweb.org](mailto:info@bpsweb.org)

**FAX:**

The former CCGP FAX number is no longer functional. The FAX number for issues related to the geriatric examination or recertification is: 202-429-6304.

**Website:**

The CCGP website will continue to be functional for most of 2017. Information about the geriatric examination and recertification will be added to the BPS website in 2017.

**Telephone:**

As of January 3, 2017, CCGP staff were relocated to the BPS headquarters in Washington, DC. Telephone calls may be made to BPS at 202-429-7591 and then will be routed to the appropriate person.

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