

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

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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. Some details remain to be resolved regarding the transition. 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?**

CCGP operations continued as usual through the end of 2016. The year of 2017 will be a transition year with the CGP 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 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.

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 will be conducted in 2017, so the 2018 examination will have a new content outline derived from the 2017 job analysis. By 2018, the Geriatric Specialty Council will be appointed.

### **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 begin to 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.” These certificates are being developed and printed now and should be finalized by the end of February 2017. Pharmacists who recertify in January or February may need to wait to receive a certificate after they complete the requirements for recertification. We apologize for any inconvenience.

All pharmacists who earned the CGP credential prior to January 2017 will receive a BPS certificate in January 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 charges 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?**

All three of the existing CCGP staff members have 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:**

The e-mail addresses for CCGP staff, and the general CCGP e-mail, [info@ccgp.org](mailto:info@ccgp.org), will continue to function through most of 2017. Inquiries sent by e-mail will receive a response.

**FAX:**

The former CCGP FAX number will no longer be functional after December 20, 2016. Beginning December 21, 2016, the FAX number for CCGP and issues related to the geriatric examination or recertification will be: 202-429-6304.

**Website:**

The CCGP website will continue to be functional for at least several months at the beginning 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.

Thomas R. Clark, RPh, MHS, BCGP  
Senior Director, Geriatric Certification  
Phone: 202-558-2724

Courtney Moore,  
Senior Manager, Geriatric Certification  
Phone: 202-429-7521

**BPS Contact Info:**

Board of Pharmacy Specialties  
2215 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-2985  
Phone: 202-429-7591  
FAX: 202-429-6304  
Web: [www.bpsweb.org](http://www.bpsweb.org)