

# FACT SHEET: The Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) Credential

## Prologue

The Certified Geriatric Pharmacist credential was originally awarded by the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy (CCGP). In 2017, CCGP became part of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS). The credential is now recognised as the BCGP (Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist) certification.

At the time of issuing this fact sheet, there are still some transition processes occurring. During this transition phase, some of the course and exam materials are still hosted on the old CCGP website. This fact sheet will be updated with correct links as they become available. More information is available on the BPS website:

[www.bpsweb.org/bps-specialties/geriatric-pharmacy/](http://www.bpsweb.org/bps-specialties/geriatric-pharmacy/)

## Introduction

The internationally recognised BCGP 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.

The BCGP credential identifies pharmacists uniquely qualified to provide the standard of care that elderly people deserve. Candidates must be registered pharmacists and must have a minimum of two years' experience. Upon successful completion of the exam, the pharmacist is awarded certification for seven years and may use the post nominals of BCGP.

The BCGP examination was developed after the completion of a practice analysis to define the scope of geriatric pharmacy practice. This serves as a guide (content map) for the development of the examination. More details about the examination content can be obtained from BPS at:

[www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/bps-specialties/geriatric-pharmacy/CCGP\\_ContentOutline-thru-2017.pdf](http://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/bps-specialties/geriatric-pharmacy/CCGP_ContentOutline-thru-2017.pdf)

## BCGP examination by computer based testing (CBT)

The BCGP examination is conducted by computer-based testing (CBT). For Australian candidates, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), will administer the CBT exam in selected locations.

**shpa**FactSheet

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Candidates can register at:

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/CCGPharm/OnlineApplication.html> and nominate your preferred exam location. AMP may need to liaise with SHPA to accommodate an exam location outside of Sydney or Melbourne.

A Candidate Guide that fully explains the process can be downloaded by filling out the form on this page <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/CCGPharm/OnlineOrderForm.html>

## Preparation for the BCGP examination

### The BCGP Self-Assessment Exam (SAE)

With the transition of CCGP to BPS, the original geriatric Self-Assessment Examination (SAE) is no longer available from CCGP or BPS. Instead, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists now has responsibility for the SAE. Enquiries can be directed to the ASCP Education Department ([education@ascp.com](mailto:education@ascp.com)).

This educational tool has been designed to help pharmacists measure their knowledge and skills in geriatric pharmacy practice and to help candidates prepare for the Certification Examination in Geriatric Pharmacy.

### Preparation courses

**ASCP:** The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists provides an online preparation course. This interactive, modular course provides a self-assessment and learning program. This preparatory course is not a compulsory requirement prior to taking the BCGP examination. More information about the course is available by visiting the web site: <http://education.ascp.com/gpr/20modules>

**ASHP:** ASHP offers contemporary, application-based preparation opportunities for pharmacists looking to become Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacists. See [www.ashp.org/Professional-Development/Board-Certification-Resources/Geriatric-Pharmacy](http://www.ashp.org/Professional-Development/Board-Certification-Resources/Geriatric-Pharmacy)

## BCGP re-certification after 7 years

Recertification for BPS Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacists is required every seven years. It is an assessment of the practitioner's knowledge and skills using either of two methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the multiple-choice recertification examination, based on the 2017 BPS Geriatric Pharmacy Exam Content Outline ([www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/bps-specialties/geriatric-pharmacy/CCGP\\_ContentOutline-thru-2017.pdf](http://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/bps-specialties/geriatric-pharmacy/CCGP_ContentOutline-thru-2017.pdf)); or
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by the professional development programs offered by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists ([www.ascp.com](http://www.ascp.com)) and/or ASHP ([www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org))

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