

FACT SHEET

The Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP) Credential

Facilitated within Australia by SHPA under the auspices of the
Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy (CCGP) www.ccgp.org

Introduction

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.

The CGP 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 five years and may use the post nominals of CGP.

The CCGP 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 CCGP at <http://www.ccgp.org/sites/default/files/CCGP-ContentOutline.pdf>

CCGP examination by computer based testing (CBT)

The CCGP examination is conducted by computer-based testing (CBT). For Australian candidates, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), CCGP's psychometric testing service, will administer the CBT exam in the following locations:

- Sydney, where AMP will organize its exam venue
- Adelaide (as organized by Dr Chris Alderman of Repatriation General Hospital from time to time)
- Melbourne (SHPA office on any Saturday morning as requested by AMP)

Candidates can register at: <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/CCGPPharm/OnlineApplication.html> and make an appointment with AMP for the exam in Sydney or Melbourne.

On the day of the examination, candidates will be given the opportunity to practise taking the exam. The time used for practice will not be counted as part of the exam time and will help a candidate become comfortable with the computer testing process. A Candidate Guide that fully explains the process can be downloaded from <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/CCGPPharm/OnlineOrderForm.html>

CGP re-certification after 5 years

To achieve CGP re-certification, an individual must be currently registered to practice pharmacy and successfully complete ONE of two methods:

1. achieving a passing score on a multiple-choice 150-question examination administered by CCGP before their certificate expiration date, or;
2. completion of the Professional Development Program for CGP Recertification. Under the Professional Development Program for Recertification, candidates must successfully complete 75 hours of continuing education before their certificate expiration date. See <http://www.ccgp.org/recertification/pdp>.

Preparation for the CCGP examination

- *The CCGP Self-Assessment Exam (SAE)*

The recommended method for candidates to assess their readiness to undertake the CCGP examination is to complete the SAE. 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. It consists of 150 multiple-choice items, is self-scoring and is based on the current certification exam content outline. The SAE will identify those areas where a candidate's knowledge base is lacking and help the candidate to better prepare for the exam. Candidates receive a total score and a summary of strengths and weaknesses by content area. The SAE also

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contains explanations for each correct and incorrect answer, thereby helping the candidate to better understand the reasoning that supports the correct answer. Order the SAE at: <http://www.ccgp.org/content/exam/self-assessment>

- *The on-line preparation course of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)*

Another recommended way to prepare is to use the on-line preparation course developed by the ASCP. This interactive, modular course provides a self-assessment and learning program. This preparatory course is not a compulsory requirement prior to taking the CCGP examination. More information about the course is available by visiting the web site: <http://education.ascp.com/gpr/20modules>

A second continuing education provider for CGP recertification is ASHP, which will begin offering programs in late 2015. See <http://www.ccgp.org/content/ccgp-adds-ashp-professional-development-provider>

Certified Geriatric Pharmacists - Accreditation for medication management reviews (MMRs)

SHPA is recognised as one of only two organisations that can accredit pharmacists who wish to receive Commonwealth funding to undertake MMRs in Australia. The CGP credential is a key component of one pathway for pharmacists to gain accreditation status by SHPA.

Accredited pharmacists may then claim reimbursement for MMR services from the Commonwealth.

For more information see the "SHPA Fact Sheet – Accreditation System for Medication Management Reviews".

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Prices contained within are current as at the date of most recent review

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