

# Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 24, 2008

BPS NR #2008-05

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## **Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Receives Petition for Recognition of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice as a Specialty**

(Washington, DC) -- The Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS) has received a formal petition for recognition of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice as a new specialty. The petition was submitted by a Task Force jointly sponsored by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, the American Pharmacists Association, and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. "The Board was very pleased to receive this petition and looks forward to reviewing it expeditiously in accordance with our established procedure," said Jannet M. Carmichael, PharmD, BCPS, BPS Chair.

Copies of the petition and its supporting appendices are available for download by interested parties at <http://www.bpsweb.org/pdfs/ambcarepetition.pdf> and <http://www.bpsweb.org/pdfs/ambcareappendices.pdf> Petition content and review process are specified in BPS' Petitioners Guide for Recognition of a Pharmacy Practice Specialty, which is available at <http://www.bpsweb.org/pdfs/petitionersguide.pdf> The petition addresses in detail each of seven criteria deemed necessary for a new specialty to be recognized by BPS. Those criteria include:

- Need
- Demand
- Number/Time
- Specialized Knowledge
- Specialized Functions
- Education and Training

- Transmission of Knowledge

The BPS review process for a petition includes a staff review for completeness, which has been done, followed by public release and opportunity for all pharmacists and other interested parties to comment on the merits of the petition. Comments will be received at at least three open hearings to be held over the coming months. The first of the open hearings will be held in conjunction with the upcoming ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Orlando, FL. That hearing will be on Tuesday, December 9, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Orange County Convention Center, West Building, Room W203C. Other open hearings are now scheduled in conjunction with the APhA Annual Meeting in San Antonio and the ACCP International Congress in Orlando, both in April 2009.

Written comments may also be submitted by mail or e-mail to BPS, using the following addresses only:

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

ATTENTION: Ambulatory Care Comment

1100 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

Or by e-mail to: [BPSAmbCare@aphanet.org](mailto:BPSAmbCare@aphanet.org)

After its own review of the petition and all comments received, the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties will determine whether to recognize Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice as a new specialty. This decision is now expected in mid-2009. If it is approved, work will then begin on developing and implementing standards, eligibility criteria, and a psychometrically sound examination process. A first exam in the Ambulatory Care specialty would not be available before 2010.

The **Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS)** is an autonomous Division of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), founded in January 1976 to recognize specialties and certify pharmacists in specialized areas of pharmacy practice. Five specialties are currently recognized by BPS: 1) nuclear pharmacy, since 1978; 2) nutrition support pharmacy, since 1988; 3) pharmacotherapy, since 1988; 4) psychiatric

pharmacy, since 1992; and 5) oncology pharmacy, since 1996. Nearly 8,000 pharmacist specialists are currently certified by BPS.