



## ASHP National Clinical Skills Competitions Best Practices Guide

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy are transitioning to virtual or hybrid learning environments. Given the evolving situation, ASHP is leaving the option of how to conduct the Clinical Skills Competition open to the various Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy. No specific restrictions or platforms will be enforced. In addition, ASHP will be modifying the ASHP SSHP Recognition Requirements for 2020-2021 to allow leniency for SSHPs unable to hold the Clinical Skills Competition. In an effort to assist SSHPs that choose to hold the competition, ASHP has collected some ideas and best practices regarding operations and planning. Note that ASHP does not have a preference nor requirement for any of the below. Please use this document as a guide. Should you have any questions please contact [students@ashp.org](mailto:students@ashp.org).

### **General Guidelines to Protect the Integrity of the Virtual Competition Process**

- Develop an honor system. Require students to abide by it.
- Require students to sign and submit non-disclosure agreements (NDA) and/or confidentiality statements before beginning work on care plans. Students should agree to NDAs or confidentiality statements on live video prior to starting competition.
- Utilize a secure platform/portal where case material will be posted as read-only for a specified time period. Users will require credentials for access and administrators should be able to monitor any screen captures or other restricted behavior, if possible.
- Use Zoom for live video monitoring/proctoring during the competition.
- We recommend that care plans are completed in writing, scanned and either submitted via email or uploaded to a portal/website using a mobile device to avoid issues with copying/pasting directly from guidelines. Care plans can also be scanned and submitted to a learning management system (LMS). Please note, students are allowed to type responses on care plans for local competitions but writing is the *only* method allowed for the national competition.

### **Option A: In-Person Round 1 + Virtual Round 2**

#### **Round 1 (In-Person, Socially-Distanced)**

- Ensure safety prior to competing in person
  - Take temperatures
  - Screen for symptoms
  - Require masks if able to compete
  - Adhere to social distancing and other safety guidelines
- Hold written portion with two-hour time limit
  - Allow use of computers with unlimited Internet access
  - Allow use of Lexicomp, AHFS, and other drug databases
- Upload completed care plans to shared folder or a learning management system
  - Consider Box, Dropbox, Canvas, etc.
  - Enforce time limit for uploads
- Evaluate cases to determine top teams
  - Review judges' evaluations to ensure consistency and adherence to guidelines

**Round 2 (Virtual)**

*\*Conduct via desired audio/visual platform (i.e. Zoom, Skype, Webex etc.)*

- Conduct top teams' virtual presentation of completed care plans and Q&A with judges
- Identify winners
- For the Final Round, set-up a schedule and have each team log-on to a video platform during their assigned time. These sessions should be private but can be recorded and shared with all participating teams after the winning team is selected.
- Consider hosting a Q&A session for local competitors via video platform to answer questions about semi-final and final rounds of competition. This session should be held after the deadline to submit winning school names which is in November.

**Option B: All Virtual**

*\*Conduct via desired audio/visual platform*

*(Zoom suggested for "breakout room" feature for Round 1)*

**Round 1 (Virtual)**

- ASHP will send case materials to participating schools of pharmacy electronically. For teams participating virtually, faculty coordinators can distribute the materials by showing on a single shared screen or providing read-only access to whatever online community your school has access to.
- Hold the written portion of competition in a two-hour time frame. Leave ample time for security process outlined in the "General Guidelines" section above.
- If competition is hosted virtually, participants need to have internet access, a mobile device and access to resources such as Lexi-Complete, AHFS and other drug databases.
- Allow students to upload patient cases to shared folder or learning management system
  - Consider Box, Dropbox, Canvas, etc.
  - Enforce time limit for uploads
- Consider using Zoom breakout rooms as a collaborative tool so student teams may be in private rooms with each other, and staff proctors may "roam" the various rooms.
- If you choose to allow typed case submissions, please be very strict that cut/paste responses will not be accepted. The students must analyze the guidelines and provide their own written interpretation.
- Have faculty coordinators manage distributing care plans to judges who will score cases using a rubric provided by ASHP to determine top teams. Since your school has decided to conduct a virtual competition, scoring can be conducted without students present.

**Round 2 (Virtual)**

- Identify winners.
- For the Final Round, set-up a schedule and have each team log-on to a video platform during their assigned time. These sessions should be private but can be recorded and shared with all participating teams after the winning team is selected.
- Consider hosting a Q&A session for local competitors via video platform to answer questions about semi-final and final rounds of competition. This session should be held after the deadline to submit winning school names which is in November.

## Sample Implementation Plans from Various Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy

### Chapman University School of Pharmacy (a 3-year all-year-round Pharm.D. curriculum)

#### Previous In-Person CSC

- Hold a half-day competition for the second-year students to participate at their last trimester of didactics courses before they leave for their APPE rotations.
- Student teams are given the local CSC case to work on for two hours, followed by the 10-minute verbal presentation of the care plan by each team.
- Student teams have access to the internet and online pharmacy database resources from our school library. They are also provided hard copies of various textbooks (e.g., DiPiro's, Applied Therapeutics, AHFS, pharmacokinetics, etc.)
- Usually, we have an average of five teams competing at our school and all have the opportunity to verbally present.
- Faculty judges make copies of the teams' written care plans for grading during the verbal presentation later that day. They reconvene on another day to discuss the total score for the teams' written and verbal presentations, and select the top team to move forward to represent the school.

#### Virtual Planning Ideas

- Conduct the local competition via Zoom using breakout rooms.
- Send the case electronically to the student teams. Student teams have access to the internet and online pharmacy database resources from our school library.
- Each student will work with their teammate in the Zoom breakout room. Students will need to have their cameras and microphones turned on for the faculty judges.
- Faculty judges will be joining the different breakout rooms throughout the two hours of the written portion to listen to the students' discussions and for supervision.
- Each team will submit their completed CSC care plan to the faculty judges for grading. The faculty judges will grade the teams' electronic submission in their own time.
- Since we usually have no more than five teams competing, we allow all teams to give the verbal presentations of their care plans. The verbal presentations will be conducted via Zoom on another day when the faculty judges and student teams are available.
- Each team are allocated a time slot of 15 minutes with 10 minutes dedicated to the presentation and Q&A session. The remaining 5 minutes are intended to allow time to let the next student team into Zoom from the waiting room and to go over the ground rules of the verbal presentation.
- Faculty judges grade/score the student teams individually and will meet at another time via Zoom to discuss the total score for the teams' written and verbal presentations, and select the top team to move forward to represent the school.

### Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy

#### Previous In-Person CSC

- Have judges score cases after students present
- All students complete verbal presentation
- Keep number at 20-25 teams for manageable one-day time frame

#### Virtual Planning Ideas

- Send case electronically since it is open book/Internet

- Set timer for two hours on learning management system (i.e. Canvas, free version) for students to type in patient care plan
  - Consider possible concern: taking pictures of the case, computer glitches, or faulty Wifi
- Have judges score cases confidentially in their own time
- Invite top 10 teams to present via audio/visual platform (i.e. Zoom, Webex, Skype, etc.)

### **Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy**

#### **Previous In-Person/Virtual CSC**

*\*Due to having main and satellite locations*

- Have faculty member on campus hand out case and scan answer sheets to judges
- Have students present in-person or virtually to judges (depending location of students and judges)

#### **Virtual Planning Ideas**

- Use Canvas (or other LMS), Box, Dropbox, or Google Docs to share case files with students and judges
- Use Zoom to “proctor”
- Email submission files to coordinator, who sends to judges
- Have break depending on number of teams
- Have teams virtually present in planned order either later the same day or another day

### **University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy**

#### **Previous In-Person CSC**

- Hold a two-day competition
  - Hold two-hour portion in one evening for fourth-year students to participate after rotations
  - Select three to five teams for verbal presentation next day during lunch hour

#### **Virtual Planning Ideas**

- Use one Zoom “proctor” during two-hour time frame
- Have judges meet after this time to review, score, and select top teams to move forward
- Have students submit cases via DropBox, Canvas, etc.
  - Disperse electronically for judges for scoring
- Host verbal presentations via Zoom the next day

### **University of Michigan College of Pharmacy**

#### **Previous In-Person CSC**

- Invite P3 and P4 students
  - Form own teams
  - Assist those who can't find partners
  - Have 10-12 teams compete
- Hold two-hour written competition
  - Use computer with unlimited Internet access
  - Use personal device to access Lexicomp and AHFS
- Scan and send care plans to judges to evaluate for one week
  - Ensure judges evaluations are consistent and follow ASHP guidance
  - Identify top five teams.
- Have top five teams present care plans to judges
  - Have 10-minute Q&A session with ASHP format for national competition one week after first round
- Identify team with highest cumulative score from Round 1 + Round 2 as winner
- Identify runner-up in case winners cannot compete in state or national competition

**Virtual Planning Ideas*****In-Person Round 1 + Virtual Round 2***

- Take temperatures and screen for symptoms before allowing teams to compete
- Compete in large room that meets social distancing guidelines
  - Use masks
- Upload care plan materials to shared folder (via Box, Dropbox, etc.) with strict time limit
- Evaluate Round 1 care plans
  - Identify top five teams
- Present care plans virtually and have virtual Q&A with judges

**All Virtual**

- Can have individuals with symptoms participate virtually if they feel well enough to do so
- Host meeting or webinar where teams keep cameras on for monitoring
  - Honor system to adhere to rules
  - Facilitate team collaboration with constant monitoring in Zoom “breakout” rooms
- Identify top five teams
- Present care plans virtually and have virtual Q&A with judges