



# ASHP Clinical Skills Competition<sup>SM</sup> *Coordinator Handbook*

**Planned and Coordinated by:  
The ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum**

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## **Dear ASHP Clinical Skills Competition Coordinator:**

Thank you for your efforts in coordinating your school's competition this year. Your role is vital to the success of this program both locally and nationally!

Please review the materials thoroughly and contact us with any questions. We hope that this handbook is a useful resource for you and welcome your feedback.

Here are some important points to remember that will help make your competition successful:

- Work with your respective ASHP state affiliate organization and/or student society of health-system pharmacy (SSHP) to promote, organize, and conduct the competition.
- Create awareness among student participants of the forms contained in this handbook.
- Omit participant names from the competition forms to preserve confidentiality and prevent bias. A number or letter may be used to identify teams on the forms.
- Students should receive feedback on their work by receiving copies of their forms and evaluators' comments.
- Recognize supporters and volunteers.
- Most importantly – HAVE FUN!

This handbook covers all you need to know to run a successful competition; however, you may contact the ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum staff with specific questions at [students@ashp.org](mailto:students@ashp.org).

Please note, the Clinical Skills Competition forms and cases are copyrighted and, thus, property of ASHP. Duplication and distribution of these materials is permissible for purposes of the competition only.

Best regards and good luck!

ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum

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## Introduction

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The purpose of the Clinical Skills Competition (CSC) is to encourage and recognize excellence in clinical skill development for pharmacy students. The CSC is designed to facilitate an interactive, team-based analysis of clinical scenarios for health-system pharmacists. The CSC provides pharmacy students the opportunity to enhance their skills in collaborative practice with physicians in providing direct patient care.

**The goals of the Clinical Skills Competition are to:**

1. Foster the development of clinical practice skills using all available resources;
2. Reinforce the pharmacist's responsibility for optimal drug therapy outcomes;
3. Facilitate the effective use of a systematic approach to clinical problem-solving; and
4. Utilize written and oral communication skills.

In the CSC, students work in pairs on a timed case study. These teams compete by demonstrating their skills in assessing patient information and current therapy, identifying and prioritizing drug therapy problems, identifying treatment goals, and formulating a comprehensive pharmacy care plan. A panel of judges then determines the winner of the competition using a standardized set of evaluation criteria.

Schools and colleges of pharmacy are encouraged to conduct a Preliminary Round (local-level) Clinical Skills Competition on their campus in the Fall. One winning team from each ACPE-accredited institution is invited to advance to the National Semi-Final Round competition held during the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) in December. ASHP will provide each competing team of two students a complimentary registration to attend the MCM.

## Important Dates & Deadlines

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### June – August

- Designate a faculty coordinator for the Preliminary Round (local-level) CSC
- Review CSC Coordinator Handbook
- Ask ASHP state affiliate to sponsor the CSC (provide lunch, prizes, etc.)
- Work with school to secure funding for winning student team to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
- Complete online Report Form A by **August 5** (available at [www.ashp.org/clinicalskills](http://www.ashp.org/clinicalskills))
- Identify a date and time for the CSC (to be held before November 2)

### August – September

- CSC faculty coordinators receive confidential case and answer key (These documents will be emailed in August.)
  - *Please note: student coordinators are not eligible to receive these files.*
- Reserve room in school for CSC (Ideally each table would have two chairs for teams to work) or secure virtual platform for competition
- Reserve video equipment if recording oral presentations for judges
- Schedule an informational meeting for students to learn about the CSC
- Promote CSC in:
  - All didactic classes / experiential rotations / pharmacy fraternities, sororities, organizations / student society of health-system pharmacy (SSHP) / other pharmacy student societies and ASHP state affiliate
- Display posters, with your CSC's date/time printed on them, around your school to publicize the event. Posters are shipped to faculty advisors with ASHP's student membership materials in August.
- Display flyer from Wolters Kluwer Health about the free trial of Lexi-Complete™ with AHFS Essentials™ for students competing this year. The flyer is available on the ASHP website.
- Email, post online and/or print promotional flyer available online.
- Recruit judges for CSC (e.g., state affiliate members, experiential rotation preceptors, faculty, and residents in local ASHP-accredited residency programs).
- Schedule judges' workshop/meeting to review case and evaluation forms.
- Students should receive the following upon registering:
  - Competition date, time, and location
  - Blank forms (Patient Database Form & Care Plan)
  - Practice case and answer key from previous National CSC competitions (available online)
  - A list of references available during the competition
  - Evaluation criteria

### September – October

- Judges should receive the following before the competition:
  - Competition date, time, and location
  - Evaluation criteria
  - Official CSC Preliminary Round (Local-Level) Case and Answer Key [**CONFIDENTIAL**]
- Conduct judges' workshop
  - Review case answer key, discuss scoring and questions for oral presentation round
- Remind students of the local registration deadline to compete in the CSC
- Copy the Official CSC Local-Level Preliminary Round case and the accompanying forms
- Gather references to be used in CSC
- Conduct CSC**
- Ensure that winning team members have a current ASHP membership, and submit their names online via Report Form B by **November 2**.
- Complimentary meeting registrations will be processed throughout the month of November due to the

large number of CSC participants.

- Report the winners of the CSC to the state affiliate and pharmacy school administration.
- Provide feedback to student participants. Return case materials to students, distribute answer key and hold debrief session to discuss case.

**November**

- Prepare winners to participate in the National Clinical Skills Competition.

## Preliminary Round (Local-Level) Competition

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### **Eligibility**

**Preliminary Round (local-level)**—Eligibility to participate in the preliminary round (local-level) CSC will be determined by the local-level CSC faculty coordinator or other officials such as ASHP staff. Schools may use the national-level CSC criteria and/or impose additional eligibility restrictions at their discretion. Note that while students are not required to be ASHP members to compete in the preliminary round (local-level) competition, only ASHP student members enrolled in ACPE-accredited (including “candidate” status) pharmacy programs are eligible to advance to the national level competition. Schools must confirm membership status of the winning team members by providing valid ASHP member ID numbers when submitting information to ASHP online via completion of Form B. We cannot process a complimentary Midyear Clinical Meeting registration for a student who is not a current member.

**Semi-Final and Final Rounds (national-level)**—Eligibility to participate in the national-level CSC is open to ASHP student members enrolled in a full-time ACPE accredited Doctor of Pharmacy program. One winning team of two (2) students from each ACPE-accredited (including “candidate” status) pharmacy program is invited to advance to the national-level competition.

**It is important to note that only one Preliminary Round (local-level) competition may be held per ACPE-accredited school or college. Schools with more than one campus should collaborate to hold a joint competition and determine the winning team to represent the entire school.**

NOTE: Students who are enrolled in a Doctor of Pharmacy program and are currently licensed practitioners are not eligible to participate in the CSC unless they have never practiced pharmacy in any state/country.

### **Confidentiality**

ASHP and the CSC coordinators believe it is critical for students to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the best ethical principles of the profession of pharmacy. Students should participate in the competition in accordance with the following rules and regulations detailed in the CSC handbook. Students should not share knowledge of the case outside of their team or outside of the competition. The CSC registration form contains a confidentiality statement; it is mandatory that all student competitors sign this statement.

### **Registration**

Eligible students are encouraged to register in self-selected teams of two. However, individual students may sign up to be placed in teams of two by the Preliminary Round (local-level) CSC faculty coordinator. Registration should be completed at least two weeks before the competition. Please use the registration form included in this handbook (see page 13). Although there is no registration fee for the preliminary competition, it is expected that the winning team from each school will participate in the national competition, and there are travel and lodging costs associated with participation at the national level. Please review eligibility requirements for the national-level competition before selecting winning team.

### **CSC Cases**

ASHP will provide all participating schools or colleges of pharmacy with an electronic copy of the official local-level CSC case. The previous year’s CSC national and local-level cases with answer keys will be available on the ASHP website for students to download to practice and prepare for their Preliminary Round (local-level) competition. The national case is generally more challenging than the local-level case. Please note that competition cases are not limited to a particular practice setting, disease state, or type of drug therapy.

# Clinical Skills Competition Format

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## **Part I: Written Case**

Each student team has two (2) hours to write a Pharmacist's Care Plan for the case provided. ASHP will provide the official Preliminary Round (local-level) case to the CSC faculty coordinator for the school or college. Student coordinators are not eligible to receive the case materials.

Each team packet for the written competition should include the following documents:

- 1 CSC local-level Preliminary Round Case
- 1 Pharmacist's Patient Database Form
- 3 Pharmacist's Care Plans\*
- 2 Sheets of blank paper

*\*Several blank copies of this form should be distributed to students upon registration (seven copies are supplied at the national level)*

### ***Pharmacist's Patient Case***

This form contains the patient's demographic, administrative, medical, laboratory, drug therapy, behavioral, and socioeconomic information. This is the information students will need to make patient-specific drug therapy decisions that reflect pharmaceutical care. **This form is for the students' reference only—it will not be scored by the judges.**

### ***Pharmacist's Care Plan***

**The Pharmacist's Care Plan is the only document that will be reviewed and scored by the judges.** Ideally, each team's Care Plan should clearly outline each drug-related problem found in the case, including (but not limited to) treatment of all acute and chronic disease, resolution of all actual and/or potential drug-related problems, recommendation of additional healthcare services from which the patient may benefit, and identification of appropriate risk factor reduction and disease prevention strategies.

Students should be instructed to complete their Care Plans in the following manner:

- "Health Care Problem" column: List all health care problems that need to be addressed in this patient.
- "Priority" column: Prioritize the problems by indicating the appropriate number where:
  - 1 = Most urgent problem (there can only be one urgent problem)
  - 2 = Problems to be addressed immediately or during this clinical encounter
  - 3 = Problems to be addressed later (e.g. a week or more later/at discharge or next follow up visit)
- For each problem, describe the following:
  - Therapeutic goals
  - Recommendations for therapy
    - Pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapies
  - Monitoring parameters and therapeutic endpoints
    - Frequency of follow-up
    - Endpoints should be measured using defined parameters
      - Clinical, laboratory data; quality of life, etc.
      - Set target dates for achieving endpoints



## References

It is best practice for student teams to have an adequate supply of references to consult during the written portion of the competition (one copy of each reference for every five teams is suggested). While printed texts are provided at the national competition, schools may feel free to provide electronic references.

We are grateful for the support of Wolters Kluwer Health. This year's support will include a free trial of Lexi-Complete™ with AHFS Essentials™ for those students that do not already have a subscription. Students competing in local competitions may be allowed to access the free trial on their personal handheld device during the written portion of your local competition. They will have full use of the product until after the close of the national competition in December. Those that do not already have a subscription can sign up using the flyer on the [CSC website](#).

Schools should inform participating students in advance which references will be available during the local competition. Core references supplied by the school should include texts (electronic or hard copy) that provide information on the following topics:

- Therapeutics
- Drug information
- Drug interactions
- Interpretation of laboratory data
- General medicine
- Pharmacokinetics

At the national-level CSC, approved references consist of copyrighted, printed texts and each team will have access to one iPad mini device that has been preloaded with Lexi-Complete™ with AHFS Essentials™ with unrestricted internet access. Other computer software and/or electronic devices (PDAs) are prohibited at the national competition. **The use of personal or classroom notes are prohibited at the national competition.**

References available at the Semi-Final Round (national-level) CSC include:

- American Hospital Formulary Service (AHFS)
- Basic Skills in Interpreting Laboratory Data (Lee)
- Applied Therapeutics (Young, Koda-Kimble)
- Pharmacotherapy (DiPiro)
- Clinical Pharmacokinetics (Murphy)
- Steadman's Concise Medical Dictionary
- Lexi-Comp's Drug Information Handbook
- Lexi-Complete™ with AHFS Essentials™

## Part II: Oral Case Presentation

Upon completion of the written portion of the competition, each student team will give an oral presentation to the judges justifying their care plan recommendations. A total of 10 minutes will be allotted for each presentation, which includes a two (2) minute presentation period and an eight (8) minute question and answer period.

Two (2) minute student case presentations should include the following:

- The students' names and school or college of pharmacy
- Brief summary of the patient's condition, listing all health problems that require immediate attention
- Complete treatment plan **for the most urgent problem only**, including therapeutic goals, recommendations for therapy, monitoring parameters, and endpoints

Example:

“Hello, my name is Michael Smith and this is my teammate Sarah Jones. We are students at the ACME University School of Pharmacy. Our patient SJ is a 77-year old female admitted with a CVA, hypertension, and probable bacterial pneumonia, all of which require immediate attention. The CVA is his most urgent problem. After ruling out hemorrhagic stroke with a CT/MRI, our therapeutic goals are to stop progression of the intracranial thrombosis, prevent further neurological damage, and minimize complications of therapy. We chose to begin IV alteplase (provide dose, frequency, duration of therapy, monitoring parameters, and therapeutic endpoints) . . . .”

### **Part III: Evaluation**

ASHP will provide all participating schools or colleges of pharmacy with an answer key and judges’ notes written by the author of the local-level preliminary round case. Judges should review the case summary and answer key prior to the competition, and use the forms provided to evaluate each team. Both the case and the answer key have been peer reviewed, but there are often several different approaches to improve therapy that may be deemed “appropriate” by the judges. ASHP asks that the evaluators use the official answer key to facilitate the most objective evaluation possible and to promote consistency among scoring.

ASHP recommends that each school recruit 2–3 judges for the competition. If possible, the same judges should evaluate all teams. Schools should host brief workshops/overviews for judges to discuss any questions prior to the competition. If a school is conducting a Preliminary Round on multiple campuses, it is suggested that all oral presentations be video recorded so that the judges can evaluate all teams simultaneously.

Judges will score the Pharmacist’s Care Plan and the oral presentation using the answer key and evaluation forms provided by ASHP. In the event of a tie, the team with the highest score on the Pharmacist’s Care Plan will be declared the winner of the local-level Preliminary Round competition.

## **Evaluation and Scoring of Pharmacist's Care Plan (100 points + 10 bonus points)**

### ***Problem Identification and Prioritization (30 points total)***

- The most urgent problem is correctly identified (15 points)
- Problems that need to be addressed immediately or during this clinical encounter are identified (10 points)
- Problems that can be addressed later (e.g., a week or more later/at discharge or next follow up visit) are identified (5 points)

### ***Therapeutic Goals (15 points total)***

- Goals are individualized, appropriate, and realistic
  - Priority 1 goals (10 points)
  - Priority 2 and 3 goals (5 points)

### ***Recommendations for Therapy (40 points total)***

- Recommendations are individualized, realistic, and consistent with medical standards and principles of evidence-based medicine
  - Priority 1 recommendations (20 points)
  - Priority 2 recommendations (15 points)
  - Priority 3 recommendations (5 points)

### ***Monitoring Parameters and Endpoints (15 points total)***

- Parameters are practical and effective measures of the desired endpoint
- Endpoints are reasonable and appropriate choices for the patient
- Frequency is reasonable for the plan and appropriate for the patient
  - Priority 1 monitoring parameters and endpoints (10 points)
  - Priority 2 monitoring parameters and endpoints (5 points)

### ***Bonus Points***

- Judges may award up to 10 bonus points at their own discretion

## **Evaluation and Scoring of Oral Case Presentation (100 points + 10 bonus points)**

### ***Presentation Skills (30 points)***

- Verbal communication —clear, coherent, concise, complete, organized, convincing, confident
- Non-verbal behavior —eye contact, facial expressions, body language, voice, demeanor, presence
- Interpersonal—warmth, compassion, manners/tact, professionalism

### ***Case Summarization (10 points)***

- Utilization of time provided to present case

### ***Pharmacotherapy Knowledge (20 points)***

- Demonstration of knowledge that incorporates an understanding of important drug principles
- Ability to integrate drug knowledge into patient care

### ***Defense of Recommendations (40 points)***

- Problem solving and decision-making
- Therapeutic rationale
- Use of evidence to support recommendations
- Responsiveness to judges' questions

### ***Bonus Points***

- Judges may award up to 10 bonus points at their own discretion

**MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS FOR ENTIRE COMPETITION = 200 POINTS + 20 BONUS POINTS**

#### **Part IV: Competition Wrap-up**

At the conclusion of the local-level Preliminary Round Competition, the CSC faculty coordinator should submit the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition Report Form B available on the ASHP website **no later than November 2**. You will need to have the following information available in order to complete Report Form B:

1. names of your two winning team members,
2. mailing addresses,
3. preferred email addresses,
4. ASHP member ID numbers. (They must be current ASHP student members to participate in the national competition.)

Please let your team members know that complimentary MCM registrations will be processed throughout the month of November.

The coordinator should return the case and answer key to the student teams, and hold a debriefing session to review the case.

### **Prizes/Awards**

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Awards may be distributed locally by the school or college of pharmacy, student society of health-system pharmacy, or ASHP state affiliate.

ASHP provides complimentary registration to the Midyear Clinical Meeting to the winning student team from each school. If the school's winning team cannot participate in the national CSC, no substitute prizes will be awarded in lieu of the complimentary registration. Registration is transferable only to individuals participating in the national competition.

### **Important Tips for a Successful Preliminary Local-Level Competition**

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- Publicize your competition to faculty members and students.
- Encourage students to review the practice cases online prior to the competition.
- Provide prizes as an incentive for students to register for the competition.
- Ask your state and/or local society of health-system pharmacy about sponsoring the competition by having lunch delivered to participants or have prizes for the winners.
- Provide one set of references for every 5 teams participating in the competition.
- Hold a brief workshop/learning session for judges; make sure there is a consensus on how the case will be scored.

## National Competition at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

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The 2020 National Clinical Skills Competition will be held virtually during the ASHP Midyear Clinical. It is a two-day event, completed in two rounds. Only student teams that have qualified at a local-level Preliminary Round competition and are current ASHP members are eligible to participate in the national competition. Cases used in the national competition are in the same format as the cases used in the local-level competition, but have an advanced level of difficulty.

*This information is provided in detail to student teams who advance to the national competition. Final details and the competition schedule will be available to local winners in November. Please be sure to provide ASHP with the correct email addresses for your school's winners to ensure prompt receipt of these materials. Winners' contact information and ASHP member ID number must be submitted to ASHP via Form B located on the CSC website.*

### **Semi-Final Round (national-level): Written Case – Saturday**

Each student team has two **(2) hours** to complete the written portion of the competition. The written competition is a closed session—no visitors, faculty, or other students are permitted in the virtual competition room at any time. Competition proctors will notify competitors when there are 60, 30, 15, and 5 minutes remaining in the competition. Teams may not take anything from or bring anything into the virtual competition room while the competition is in progress. Student teams must provide their own materials including calculators, scratch paper, pencils, etc., to complete their written Pharmacist's Care Plans. No other personal items may be on the students' desks during the competition without permission of the competition proctors.

There are five (5) national-level semi-final round sessions scheduled on the Saturday immediately before the opening of the Midyear Clinical Meeting, with registration for the first session beginning at 7:00 AM. The competition schedule will be finalized and sent to all participating schools by the middle of November. The top ten finalist teams will be announced during the MCM Pharmacy Student Forum Opening Session on Sunday morning. After the announcement is made, the list of teams will be posted at the CSC registration table, the Membership Info Center and at Meeting Info.

### **Final Round (National-Level): Oral Presentation – Sunday**

As in the preliminary round competition, a total of **10 minutes** will be allotted for each presentation, which includes a two **(2) minute presentation period** and an eight **(8) minute question and answer period**. The oral presentation should follow the same format described in the regional competition instructions. The top ten finalists present their cases in random order so students should be prepared to wait up to 4 hours in a virtual holding room until they have presented. Teams are sequestered until they complete their oral presentation.

Other meeting attendees are invited to observe the final round of oral presentations. Winners of the national CSC will be announced during the MCM Opening General Session on Monday.

### **Prizes/Awards**

Each member of a top ten finalist team will receive an iPad mini device preloaded with a one-year subscription to Lexi-Complete™ with AHFS Essentials™, a \$25 Amazon gift card, and a choice of 1 ASHP Self-Assessment Resources. In addition to these prizes, each member of the first place winning team will receive a \$500 cash award, individual first place trophies, and one large first place trophy for their school or college of pharmacy.

## Appendix: Clinical Skills Competition Documents

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- CSC Registration Form
- Pharmacist's Patient Database Form
- Pharmacist's Care Plan
- Evaluator Score Sheet – Written Case **(to be sent with case materials in August)**
- Evaluator Score Sheet – Oral Presentation

**ASHP CLINICAL SKILLS COMPETITION  
PRELIMINARY ROUND (LOCAL-LEVEL) REGISTRATION FORM**

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Students should register **at least 2 weeks** before the competition. Upon registering, both members of the team should receive a practice case with answer key, blank forms, a list of acceptable references and evaluation criteria.

**In consideration of participating in the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition ("CSC"), each of the undersigned students agrees that he/she has not seen or discussed the substance of the Preliminary Round Case ("Case") and related Answer Key with anyone, and further agrees that he/she will not discuss the substance of the Case with anyone until the later of (a) November 2 or (b) the conclusion of the preliminary rounds of the CSC.**

<b>TEAM #</b>	<b>TEAM MEMBER 1</b>	<b>TEAM MEMBER 2</b>
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5		
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