



ASHP Clinical Skills CompetitionSM *Student Handbook*

Planned and Coordinated by:
The ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum

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Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition (CSC). This student handbook was developed to provide useful information about what the Clinical Skills Competition entails, as well as how the competition works on a local level at your school, as well as on a national level during the Midyear Clinical Meeting. This Student Handbook contains great tips, advice and guidance that can help make your experience a perfect synergy of learning, clinical skills development and professional networking. And perhaps one of the best parts of it all, you'll have an opportunity to make great friends for life.

Regards,
ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum

Clinical Skills Competition General Overview:

- **Clinical Skills Competition** – A 2-hour written assessment and oral presentation in which you analyze a patient case with a teammate of your choice.
- **Preliminary Round, Local Clinical Skills Competition** – This round of the competition takes place at your local school where you will complete a written assessment and oral presentation of a patient case. You work in a team of two competing against your local classmates. Your case is evaluated by local faculty and the winning team from this preliminary round is invited to compete at the national level during the Midyear Clinical Meeting.
- **Semi-Final Round, National Clinical Skills Competition** – This round of the competition takes place at the Midyear Clinical Meeting on the Saturday before the meeting officially opens. The semi-final round is only open to the winning teams of the Local Clinical Skills Competition who are current ASHP members. The students complete the written portion of the national case during this semi-final round.
- **Final Round, National Clinical Skills Competition**– This final round of the competition takes place at the Midyear Clinical Meeting on the Sunday before the meeting officially opens, and is only open to the top ten teams from the semi-final round. During this final round, the teams make their oral presentations to a panel of three judges.

Frequently Asked Questions (refer to the following document for more details):

- Does the competition cost anything? – No.
- Who can compete? – Any student, who has not practiced as a licensed pharmacist, and who attends an ACPE-accredited school of pharmacy.
- What are the benefits of participation? – Participants develop their clinical skills, expand their professional network, make new friends, and learn market and industry information that may be useful during an upcoming job interview. There are also prizes for winners at both the local and the national levels. The winning team of the local competition gets a free registration to the Midyear Clinical Meeting.
- How do I sign up? – Register for the competition through your local coordinator. If you don't know who that is, you can ask your local student activities director or email ASHP at students@ashp.org.
- When is the competition? – The local competition is held at the discretion of the local coordinator, but must be held before November 1. The national level competition is held during the Saturday and Sunday before the Midyear Clinical Meeting officially starts.

We hope you enjoy the competition; please feel free to contact us at students@ashp.org with any questions.

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Introduction

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 on a timed case study in pairs. 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 Preliminary Round (local-level) Clinical Skills Competitions on their campuses in the Fall. One winning team from each ACPE-accredited institution will be invited to advance from the local level to the National level Semi-Final Round competition held during the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) in December. ASHP will provide each competing team of two students with complimentary registration to attend the MCM.

Preliminary Round (Local-Level) Competition

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 rules and regulations detailed in this 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 for the student competitors to sign.

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. Registrations must be completed at least two weeks before the competition. 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.

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 case will be available on the ASHP website for students to download to practice and prepare for their Preliminary Round (local-level) competitions. The website contains national and local-level cases and answer keys previous years. 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.

Part I: Written Case

Each student team has two (2) hours to write a Pharmacist's Care Plan for the case provided.

Pharmacist's Patient Case

This form will contain 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(s), 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

Student teams may be provided with a supply of references with which they may consult during the written portion of the competition. Students competing in local competitions will also have access to a free trial of Lexi-Complete™ with AHFS Essentials™. Students may access their free trial on their personal handheld device during the written portion of their local competition, and 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 Lexicomp subscription can visit the CSC website to sign up. Schools will inform participating students in advance regarding which references will be available, if applicable, and if use of the internet will be allowed.

Core references include texts 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 will be preloaded with Lexi-Complete™ with AHFS Essentials™ with unrestricted internet access. Other computer software and/or electronic devices (cell phones, iPads, PDAs, etc.) 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

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

Prizes/Awards

Awards may be provided 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.

National Competition at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

The National Clinical Skills Competition will be held virtually during the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. 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. (To become a member of ASHP, please [visit our website](#)). 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 schools' winners to ensure prompt receipt of these materials. Winners' contact information and ASHP member ID number must be submitted to ASHP via Form B on the CSC website.

Semi-Final Round (national-level): Written Case

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 competition room at any time. Competition monitors 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 competition room while the competition is in progress. ASHP will provide all necessary materials including calculators, scratch paper, pencils, etc. for student teams to complete their written Pharmacist's Care Plans. No other personal items may be on the students' desks during the competition without the permission of the competition monitors.

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. It is **strongly encouraged** that student teams arrive on Friday before, to avoid potential travel delays and to plan their trip from their hotels to the competition room in the convention center. 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

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—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 Clinical Skills Competition will be announced during the Midyear Clinical Meeting's Opening General Session on Monday.