



***Board Certification Study Timeline:  
BCOP 4-Month Calendar***

## BCOP Best Practices 4-Month Calendar

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists New Practitioners Forum (NPF) has developed this guidance document to aid new practitioners in their quest to obtain Board of Pharmacy Specialties Oncology Pharmacy certification (BCOP). This is not an all-inclusive study guide, although it is broad in nature and mirrors the content on the ASHP Oncology Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course. The purpose of this document is to provide a structured reference point to keep practitioners on schedule to sit for the BCOP examination. In addition to providing a suggested study schedule, the following are some helpful tidbits that we've heard about or experienced along the way.

- Portions of the exam correspond with research-oriented topics that challenge an examinee's knowledge of how to search for drug information questions, research design, and concepts involving interpretation of the biomedical literature. "[Research Fundamentals](#)" is a series of articles published in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP)* to consider reading to become familiar with these research-oriented topics.
- BCOP item writers are highly encouraged to write case-based questions to test concepts, so what better way to study than by an interactive, case-based format? ASHP's Oncology Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course is case-based, involving application of concepts to patient care, just as in clinical practice and on the exam.  
\*Learn more at [www.ashpcertifications.org](http://www.ashpcertifications.org).
- If new guidelines come out during the 6 months or so prior to the exam, there's a good chance that you will not be tested on those. Since the question validation process takes a significant amount of time, concepts regarding a particular topic are very likely to be based on the guidelines at the time the question was written.

## Suggested 4-Month Calendar

Month 1	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Cancer Pathology  Cancer-related Molecular Biology and Testing  Adult Sarcomas	Adult Sarcomas	Etiology and pathophysiology of cancer and cancer-related complications  Hydration  Methotrexate monitoring  Chemo-protectants: Mesna with ifosfamide
Week 2	Chemotherapy Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics		
Week 3	Melanoma and Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers  Head and Neck/CNS Tumors	Melanoma and Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers  Head and Neck Cancers and Adult CNS Tumors	Mucositis and use of palifermin for prevention in head and neck cancer only  MASCC guideline to prevent mucositis
Week 4	Breast Cancer and Gynecologic Cancers (Ovarian, Cervical, Endometrial)	Breast Cancer  Gynecological Malignancies: Cervical, Endometrial, and Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	Cardiotoxicity  Use of bisphosphonates in breast cancer  CINV and use of fosaprepitant  Hypersensitivity reactions with taxanes/platinum  Neuropathy  Bevacizumab issues: hypertension  Alopecia

Month 2	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Genitourinary, Bladder, Renal Cell, Testicular, and Prostate Cancer	Bladder, Renal, and Testicular Cancer  Prostate Cancer	Hemorrhagic cystitis  Toxicities of interferon  Pulmonary toxicities  Hypercalcemia  Use of bisphosphonates in prostate cancer/spinal cord compression  Management of bone pain
Week 2	Colon, Rectal, and Gastrointestinal Cancers	Colon and Rectal Cancers  GI Cancers	Hypersensitivity and neuropathy with oxaliplatin  Diarrhea  Dermatology issues: hand-foot syndrome  Anorexia/cachexia  Dosing chemotherapy in hepatic dysfunction
Week 3	Pediatric Malignancies	Pediatric Malignancies	CINV in pediatrics  Febrile neutropenia in pediatrics  Chemoprotectants
Week 4	Multiple Myeloma and Myelodysplastic Syndromes	Multiple Myeloma  Chronic Leukemias and Myelodysplastic Syndrome	Maintenance chemotherapy  Use of bisphosphonates in multiple myeloma/spinal cord compression  Nephrotoxicity in myeloma

Month 3	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Lung Cancer	Lung Cancer	CINV with cisplatin Nephrotoxicity with platinum compounds Superior vena cava syndrome Coagulation Malignant effusions CINV use of fosaprepitant with cisplatin
Week 2	Acute Leukemias/Tumor Lysis Chronic Leukemias	Acute Leukemias/Tumor Lysis Chronic Leukemias and Myelodysplastic Syndrome	Tumor lysis syndrome Febrile neutropenia Management of fungal infections Eye toxicity: high-dose cytarabine Coagulation Myelodysplastic syndromes Toxicities of tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) Specific TKIs (including fluid retention, hematologic toxicity, coagulopathy, etc.)
Week 3	Hodgkins and Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	Hodgkins and Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	Vinca/antracyclines extravasation Hypersensitivity with monoclonals: include data on MoAb for solid malignancies Long-term toxicities Immunizations
Week 4	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)/Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT)	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)/Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT)	Graft vs. host disease Chemotherapy maintenance post-HSCT Vaccination post-transplant Mucositis and use of palifermin in HCST

Month 4	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Supportive Care and Pain Management  Survivorship Care  Palliative and End of Life Care	Symptom Management	Fatigue/anemia  CINV, mucositis, survivorship background  Chemotherapy dosing in organ dysfunction  Constipation  Eye toxicity: with exception of high-dose cytarabine
Week 2	Oncology Drug Literature: Biostatistics and Study Design  Oncology Drug Development Process	Oncology Drug Literature: Biostatistics and Study Design	Evaluation of oncology literature with regard to study design, methodology, statistical analysis, and applicability of results  Integrating new information with existing information to develop recommendations for clinical use  Research protocol development, recruitment and monitoring of patients, data collection and analysis, publication of results  Regulatory and ethical issues related to conducting research
Week 3	Oncology Practice Management  Advocacy and Public Health	Oncology Practice Management	Professional practice standards and guidelines  National accreditation and regulatory organizations and requirements  Medication reimbursement and patient assistance programs  Methods for handling hazardous drugs and related materials  Populations at risk for cancer  Cancer prevention strategies  Cancer screening guidelines
Week 4	Review		Take a practice test

### Tips to Stay On Schedule

- 1) Identify a study partner and do 2-3 weekly lunch discussions about the week's topics. Group accountability!
- 2) When you approach a topic you feel comfortable with, use your time to study statistics or re-visit a difficult topic.
- 3) Keep a notebook with concise notes as you progress. This way you have a quick and concise reference to review later.

### Oncology Certification Preparation

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