



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

# BCPPS Best Practices 4-Month Study Guide

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) New Practitioners Forum (NPF) has developed this document to aid new practitioners in their quest to obtain Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacist Specialist (BCPPS) certification. The purpose of this document is to serve as a guide by way of a structured timeline to keep practitioners on schedule to sit for the BCPPS examination. Of note, this document is not an all-inclusive study guide and mirrors the content in the BCPPS Content Outline. We strongly encourage examinees to adjust the timeline and rearrange topics as needed to allow adequate time to cover areas that may require more in-depth study.

The following are some helpful points regarding the examination:

- Approximately 25% of the exam corresponds with study design, public health/advocacy, drug delivery, and patient education/communication. Be sure to review these areas. This section also challenges an examinee's knowledge of how to search for drug information questions, research design, and concepts involving interpretation of the biomedical literature. To become familiar with these research-oriented topics, consider reading "[Research Fundamentals](#)," which is a series of articles published in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP)*.
- Consider taking [ASHP's Pediatric Pharmacy Specialty Practice Exam](#). The questions may be found online through the ASHP eLearning site. After taking the exam you can print the questions, answers, explanations, and cross references to assist in reviewing the course presentation. The practice exam may be used as a way to help focus your studies prior to starting and/or during the review process leading up to the exam.
- BCPPS 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 Pediatric Pharmacy Specialty Review Course and Core Therapeutic Modules \(CTMs\)](#) are case-based modules involving application of concepts to patient care. The CTMs also have practice questions similar to those of the practice exam. ASHP has launched a whole new line of educational offerings, review courses, practice exams, and core therapeutic modules, to help you prepare for BPS examinations. Learn more at [www.ashpcertifications.org](http://www.ashpcertifications.org).
- [ASHP's Review and Recertification Reward Program \(RRRP\)](#) is designed for residents and new practitioners who are planning to sit for the BCPPS for the first time. The RRRP provides free exam preparation resources including the recorded online course, practice test, and CTMs package. In return, you agree to continue your board certification path with ASHP and use the highly praised recertification program for the first certification cycle. The recertification plan is \$10 per month and remains locked for the entire 7-year recertification cycle. This plan offers more than the required number of hours needed for each specialty as outlined by BPS and will save you approximately \$1,500 over your first recertification cycle.
- If new guidelines are published during the 6 months 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.
- Many test takers often leave the exam surprised by the number of questions that are not clinical in nature. ASHP's review course is the only course covering regulatory and population health issues (up to 20% of the exam).

## Suggested 4-Month Calendar

### Month 1

	Domain	Focused Topic	ASHP Core Therapeutics Module	ASHP Review Course Modules
Week 1	Patient Management	Pediatric Critical and Emergency Care	Select Topics in Pediatric Critical and Emergency Care (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Deep Vein Thrombosis and Metabolic Syndrome (1.5 credits)
Week 2	Patient Management	Pediatric Critical and Emergency Care	Select Topics in Pediatric Critical and Emergency Care (1 credit hour) -continued	Complex Case: Sickle Cell Disease with Vaso-Occlusive Crisis (1.5 credits)
Week 3	Patient Management	Pediatric Cardiovascular Disease	Select Topics in Pediatric Cardiovascular Disease (1 credit hour)	*PALS Review
Week 4	Patient Management	Pediatric Pulmonary Disease	Select Topics in Pediatric Pulmonary Disease: Cystic Fibrosis and Chronic Asthma (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Acute Asthma (1.5 credits)

### Month 2

	Domain	Focused Topic	ASHP Core Therapeutics Module	ASHP Review Course Modules
Week 1	Patient Management	Pediatric Hematology Oncology	Select Topics in Pediatric Hematology Oncology (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Supportive Care (1.5 credits)
Week 2	Patient Management	Pediatric Infectious Diseases	Select Topics in Pediatric Infectious Diseases Part 1 (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Neonatal Sepsis (1.5 credits)
Week 3	Patient Management	Pediatric Infectious Diseases	Select Topics in Pediatric Infectious Diseases Part 2 (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Pneumonia and Septic Shock (1.5 credits)
Week 4	Public Health and Patient Advocacy	Public Health		*CDC Pediatric Immunization Review

### Month 3

	<b>Domain</b>	<b>Focused Topic</b>	<b>ASHP Core Therapeutics Module</b>	<b>ASHP Review Course Modules</b>
Week 1	Patient Management	Pediatric Neurology	Select Topics in Pediatric Neurology Part 1 (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Status Epilepticus and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (1.5 credits)
Week 2	Patient Management	Pediatric Neurology	Select Topics in Pediatric Neurology Part 2 (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Status Epilepticus and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (1.5 credits) - continued
Week 3	Patient Management	Pediatric Nutrition	Select Topics in Pediatric Nutrition (1 credit hour)	Complex Case: Diabetic Ketoacidosis (1.5 credits)
Week 4	Patient Management	Catch up Week	Catch up Week	Catch up Week

### Month 4

	<b>Domain</b>	<b>Focused Topic</b>	<b>ASHP Core Therapeutics Module</b>	<b>ASHP Review Course Modules</b>
Week 1	Practice Management	Evidence-Based Medicine	Statistics, Evidence-Based Medicine, and Clinical Trial Design (2 credits)	Research Design, Evidence-based Medicine and Statistical Analysis (2 credits)
Week 2	Information Management and Education	Statistics, Clinical Trial Design, IRB	Statistics, Evidence-Based Medicine, and Clinical Trial Design (2 credits) - continued	Regulatory and IRB Considerations (0.5 credits)  Research Design, Evidence-based Medicine and Statistical Analysis (2 credits) - continued
Week 3	Practice Management	Medication Errors		Medication Error & Practice Management (1.5 credits)
Week 4		Review	Take a practice test	

\*Additional resources not provided by ASHP

## 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.
4. When you have more experience in a specialty area, you may want to consider completing some of the test questions before you start studying as it may help you allocate your time more efficiently and identify topics you may need more time to review.

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