

2018 SPCB CSP Practice Analysis Executive Summary

The Certified Specialty Pharmacist (CSP) practice analysis study was conducted in 2018 at the request of the Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB) to ensure that the certification program is current with modern practice. The purpose of this study was to describe the job activities of certified specialty pharmacists in sufficient detail in order to provide a basis for the continued development of a professional, job-related, evidence-based certification examination. A practice analysis study is typically performed every 5 years to ensure the exam specifications reflect the current scope of practice.

The procedure was conducted in accordance with principles and practices outlined in the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, which describe principles and guidelines for all aspects of test development, including content validation.

SPCB appointed an Advisory Committee to conduct a practice analysis to identify job responsibilities of specialty pharmacists and develop the examination specifications for the Certified Specialty Pharmacist (CSP) exams. The Advisory Committee was reflective of those who work as specialty pharmacists in all relevant aspects including geographic area, professional practice area, years of work experience, educational background, gender, work setting, and expertise in various disease states. The members of the Advisory Committee were experienced professionals, all thoroughly familiar with the skills and activities of the profession.

The practice analysis study involved developing a list of job tasks specific for specialty pharmacists, using this list of tasks to develop a practice analysis survey, distributing the survey to practitioners involved in specialty pharmacy, and analyzing the survey responses.

Examination specifications for the CSP exams were developed based on survey responses. The Examination Content Outline consists of four major content areas:

1. Intake
2. Clinical Management
3. Fulfillment
4. Outcomes

The examination specifications will be used to ensure the CSP examination is current, job-related and evidence-based. Because each test form will be developed to match these job-related examination specifications, valid content-related inferences can be drawn about candidates' abilities to perform the job of specialty pharmacist.