



***Board Certification Study Timeline:
BCOP 10-Month Calendar***

BCOP Best Practices 10-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.
- 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 10-Month Calendar

Month 1	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Cancer Pathology and Cancer-Related Molecular Biology and Testing		Etiology and pathophysiology of cancer and cancer-related complications
Week 2	Chemotherapy Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics		
Week 3	Adult Sarcomas	Adult Sarcomas	Hydration Methotrexate monitoring Chemo-protectants: Mesna with ifosfamide
Week 4	Melanoma and Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers	Melanoma and Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers	

Month 2	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Head and Neck Cancers /CNS Tumors	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 2	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 3	Breast Cancer	Breast Cancer	Cardiotoxicity Use of bisphosphonates in breast cancer CINV and use of fosaprepitant
Week 4	Breast Cancer	Breast Cancer	Cardiotoxicity Use of bisphosphonates in breast cancer

			CINV and use of fosaprepitant
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Month 3	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Gynecologic Cancers (Ovarian, Cervical, Endometrial)	Gynecological Malignancies: Cervical, Endometrial, and Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	Hypersensitivity reactions with taxanes/platinum Neuropathy Bevacizumab issues: hypertension Alopecia
Week 2	Gynecologic Cancers (Ovarian, Cervical, Endometrial)	Gynecological Malignancies: Cervical, Endometrial, and Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	Hypersensitivity reactions with taxanes/platinum Neuropathy Bevacizumab issues: hypertension Alopecia
Week 3	Genitourinary, Bladder, and Renal Cell Cancer	Bladder, Renal, and Testicular Cancer	Hemorrhagic cystitis Toxicities of interferon Pulmonary toxicities
Week 4	Genitourinary, Bladder, and Renal Cell Cancer	Bladder, Renal, and Testicular Cancer	Hemorrhagic cystitis Toxicities of interferon Pulmonary toxicities

Month 4	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Testicular and Prostate Cancer	Bladder, Renal, and Testicular Cancer Prostate Cancer	Hypercalcemia Use of bisphosphonates in prostate cancer/spinal cord compression Management of bone pain
Week 2	Colon and Rectal Cancers	Colon and Rectal Cancers	Hypersensitivity and neuropathy with oxaliplatin Diarrhea Dermatology issues: hand-foot syndrome
Week 3	Gastrointestinal Cancers	GI Cancers	Anorexia/cachexia Dosing chemotherapy in hepatic dysfunction
Week 4	Gastrointestinal Cancers	GI Cancers	Anorexia/cachexia Dosing chemotherapy in hepatic dysfunction

Month 5	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Pediatric Malignancies	Pediatric Malignancies	CINV in pediatrics Febrile neutropenia in pediatrics Chemoprotectants
Week 2	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
Week 3	Chronic Leukemias	Chronic Leukemias and Myelodysplastic Syndrome	Coagulation Myelodysplastic syndromes Toxicities of tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) Specific TKIs (including fluid retention, hematologic toxicity, coagulopathy, etc.)
Week 4	Chronic Leukemias	Chronic Leukemias and Myelodysplastic Syndrome	Coagulation Myelodysplastic syndromes Toxicities of tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) Specific TKIs (including fluid retention, hematologic toxicity, coagulopathy, etc.)

Month 6	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Acute Leukemias/Tumor Lysis	Acute Leukemias/Tumor Lysis	Tumor lysis syndrome Febrile neutropenia Management of fungal infections Eye toxicity: high-dose cytarabine
Week 2	Acute Leukemias/Tumor Lysis	Acute Leukemias/Tumor Lysis	Tumor lysis syndrome Febrile neutropenia Management of fungal infections Eye toxicity: high-dose cytarabine
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	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

Month 7	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	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 HSCT
Week 2	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 HSCT
Week 3	Febrile Neutropenia		Causes Treatment
Week 4	Supportive Care (CINV, Toxicity Management)	Symptom Management	Fatigue/anemia CINV, mucositis Chemotherapy dosing in organ dysfunction Constipation Eye toxicity: with exception of high-dose cytarabine

Month 8	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Pain Management	Symptom Management	Types of pain Pain management strategies
Week 2	Palliative and End of Life Care		Treatment strategies
Week 3	Survivorship Care		Vaccinations Bone health Smoking cessation Secondary cancers Fertility
Week 4	Oncology Drug Development Process		Research protocol development, recruitment and monitoring of patients, data collection and analysis, publication of results Regulatory and ethical issues related to conducting research

Month 9	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Oncology Drug Literature: Biostatistics and Study Design	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
Week 2	Oncology Drug Literature: Biostatistics and Study Design	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
Week 3	Oncology Practice Management	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
Week 4	Advocacy and Public Health		Populations at risk for cancer Cancer prevention strategies Cancer screening guidelines

Month 10	Topics	Modules	Incorporated Topics
Week 1	Review		Take a practice test, review anything not comfortable with
Week 2	Review		Take a practice test, review anything not comfortable with
Week 3	Review		Take a practice test, review anything not comfortable with
Week 4	Review		Take a practice test, review anything not comfortable with

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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