



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

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 HSCT

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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