



## FACT SHEET

### **The Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP) Credential**

*Conducted within Australia exclusively by SHPA under the auspices of the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy (CCGP) [www.ccgp.org](http://www.ccgp.org)*

#### **Introduction**

The **internationally** recognised CCGP certification process provides an outstanding professional development opportunity for pharmacists to demonstrate their experience and skills in providing pharmaceutical care for the elderly.

With increasing numbers of aged persons in the population, the management of chronic illness and community based care has a greater focus within health care services. Medication use is a significant component of care and thus there is an increasing demand for pharmacists who are accredited to provide pharmaceutical care for older people in community, domiciliary and residential care settings. This will provide professionally rewarding opportunities for pharmacists to participate in existing and emerging clinical services, such as medication management review programs. The CGP credential identifies pharmacists uniquely qualified to provide the standard of care that elderly people deserve.

The CCGP examination was developed after the completion of a practice analysis to define the scope of geriatric pharmacy practice. This serves as a guide (content map) for the development of the examination. More details about the examination content can be obtained from the Content Outline section of the CCGP web site ([www.ccgp.org](http://www.ccgp.org)).

Within Australia, SHPA has the sole rights to offer the CGP credential as a professional recognition certification for pharmacists. This applies to all registered pharmacists, whether or not they are SHPA members. SHPA has a nominated representative on the CCGP Examination Development Committee to ensure ongoing relevance of the exam content for Australian pharmacists.

An examination process is offered in Australia twice a year. Candidates must be registered pharmacists with a minimum of two years experience.

#### **Forthcoming Exam Dates:**

6 May 2001 in Melbourne

7 November 2001 in Hobart

#### **Registration Deadlines:**

16 March 2001 via the CCGP website

19 September 2001 via the CCGP website

Upon successful completion of the exam, the pharmacist is awarded certification for five years and may use the post nominals of CGP. Other exam sites are in the USA and Canada (refer [www.ccgp.org](http://www.ccgp.org) for further details).

An annual fee of \$US 50 is required to maintain certification. The annual fee paid to CCGP will provide benefits such as a quarterly newsletter, a published directory of certified geriatric pharmacists on the CCGP website and CCGP annual meeting information.

## **Preparation for the CCGP examination**

- *The CCGP Self-Assessment Exam (SAE)*

The **recommended** method for candidates to assess their readiness to undertake the CCGP examination is to complete the SAE. This educational tool has been designed to help pharmacists measure their knowledge and skills in geriatric pharmacy practice and to help candidates prepare for the Certification Examination in Geriatric Pharmacy. It consists of 150 multiple-choice items, is self-scoring and is based on the current certification exam content outline.

The SAE will identify those areas where a candidate's knowledge base is lacking and help the candidate to better prepare for the exam. Candidates receive a total score and a summary of strengths and weaknesses by content area. The SAE also contains explanations for each correct and incorrect answer, thereby helping the candidate to better understand the reasoning that supports the correct therapy.

The SAE costs \$US 85 and is available by downloading an order from the SHPA website at [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au) and then faxing through payment details to the SHPA office. The SAE will then be mailed out.

- *The on-line preparation course of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)*

Another recommended way to prepare is to use the on-line preparation course developed by the ASCP. This interactive, modular course provides a self-assessment and learning programme without the need to travel to an on-site course. Users have a 90 day access period for services including preliminary assessment, personalised curriculum planning, and individualised review instruction tailored to meet specific learning needs. As a final test of the participant's readiness to complete the certification exam, a practice examination is offered that reflects the structure, format and composition of the CCGP exam. This final practice examination can be taken as many times as desired, and the content will be a different combination of questions each time. More information about the course is available by visiting the web site: [www.geriatricpharmacyreview.com](http://www.geriatricpharmacyreview.com)

The ASCP on-line preparation course costs \$US 295 and must be purchased directly from the website. This preparatory course is not a compulsory requirement prior to taking the CCGP examination.

## **Enrolment for the CCGP examination**

Candidates must be registered pharmacists and must have a minimum of two years experience. Prior to examination, candidates must meet the eligibility criteria, complete the application form, submit any required documentation and pay the fee. This is done directly via the website at [www.ccgp.org](http://www.ccgp.org)

The CCGP examination fee is \$US 500.

There are no continuing education requirements for CCGP recertification. Rather, recertification is again by examination, once every five years, with a \$US 500 fee.

## **Research and Development Grants for SHPA members**

The SHPA Research and Advisory Grants Advisory Committee (RDGAC) administers a program which includes grants for SHPA members to cover the costs of the CGP examination process. Applications are called for during the year and SHPA members will be advised via the Federal Bulletin or by visiting the Grants section of the website at: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

The CCGP grants were sponsored by AMRAD Pharmaceuticals P/L who generously committed \$10,000 of the 2001 AMRAD Specialisation Grant funds to support up to eight pharmacists sit for the examinations in Australia during the October 2000 to April 2001 time period.

The next funding round sponsored by Merck Sharp and Dohme Specialisation Grants (formerly AMRAD) closes 30 June 2001 and information is available from the Grants sections of the website.

The costs associated with gaining certification in Australia are approximately \$1500.

This comprises:

- Purchasing a copy of the CCGP self-assessment examination (SAE) for \$US 85 (recommended)
- Purchasing access to an on-line exam preparation course for \$US 295 (optional)
- Payment of the \$US 500 certification fee

Grant funding is allocated to cover exam fees and preparation expenses only. Candidates will need to cover their costs for travel and accommodation.

### **Certified Geriatric Pharmacists and medication management reviews in Australia**

SHPA is recognised as one of only two organisations that can accredit pharmacists who wish to receive Commonwealth funding to undertake medication reviews within Australia. The CGP credential is a key component of one pathway for pharmacists to gain accreditation status by SHPA. (For more information see the “SHPA Fact Sheet – Accreditation System for Medication Management Reviews”).

Accredited pharmacists may then claim reimbursement under the various Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) and Department of Veteran’s Affairs (DVA) programs regarding medication review. Pharmacists must undertake the necessary government application process, details of which may vary from time to time.

*Approved by SHPA Federal Council February 2001*

*Latest review date: March 2001*

***Prices contained within are current as at the date of most recent review.***