

Selection of initial categories for certification

The categories recommended for initial consideration were determined by a variety of consultation methods.⁶ Pharmacists were surveyed to determine if they felt they had specialized knowledge in a specific disease state. They were also asked to identify what training they had taken in their specialized area. Opinion leaders were interviewed to assess the level of interest in specialty recognition. A scan of current programs was done to understand what training programs are currently available to pharmacists. In selecting the disease states for initial certification it was also important to ensure that there would be enough pharmacists with skills and knowledge in that area to support a certification program. Additionally, there needed to be a substantial number of patients available, even in a general community pharmacy setting, so a certified pharmacist could to maintain their skill level.

Four specialty areas were initially identified for credentialing based on their potential to improve patient care and the current existence of expertise in the practice areas:

- Anticoagulation Management;
- Asthma Management;
- Diabetes Management; and
- Advanced Pharmacotherapy Management

Additional specialties could be added to this list in the future.