

January 5, 2010
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NMMC PHARMACISTS RECEIVE SPECIALTY BOARD CERTIFICATION

TUPELO, Miss.—Wes Pitts and Stacie Penkova, pharmacists at North Mississippi Medical Center, were both recently board certified in pharmacotherapy. They are the only two pharmacists in north Mississippi to have achieved this certification, and two of only 20 in Mississippi

They are certified by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, an agency whose purpose is to recognize pharmacy specialties and certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills at the advanced practice level.

Pharmacotherapy is the area of pharmacy practice that is responsible for ensuring safe, appropriate and economical use of medicines in patient care. A pharmacotherapy specialist has responsibility for direct patient care, is a member of a multidisciplinary team and is the primary source of drug information for other health care providers.

In addition to passing an intensive exam, the minimum requirements for a pharmacotherapy specialty certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the United States that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the United States or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of three years of practice experience with at least 50 percent of time spent in pharmacotherapy activities.

“We are so proud of Stacie and Wes for pushing themselves to achieve this specialty certification,” said Kristie Gholson, associate director of the NMMC Pharmacy Department. “It shows how much they truly care about their patients and want to provide the best possible care for them.”

“These individuals possess a level of training, experience, knowledge and skill that is deemed essential to providing advanced level pharmaceutical care,” said BPS executive

director, Dr. Richard Bertin. “They have met a rigorous national standard. They and their employers can be justifiably proud of this accomplishment.