**Questions & Answers**

**What is the mission of the NCPS?**
The purpose of the USPHS NCPSC is to establish a national system to recognize expanded scopes of clinical pharmacy specialists in an effort to promote enhanced patient outcomes for all areas where direct patient care is provided at public health facilities in IHS, ICE, BOP, and CG.

**Which tobacco cessation training certification should I complete?**
The NCPS encourages you to complete the USPHS-Rx for Change: Tobacco Cessation Training Program Modules Five A’s course targeted for clinical healthcare professionals. After completion, you will receive a certificate and continuing education credits from Purdue University.

**Does my certification become inactive if I change duty stations?**
While the NCPS certification is valid for 3 years, it is contingent on the submission of annual clinical outcomes. One of the critical required elements of all approved collaboration practice agreements (CPAs) is submission of annual outcomes to the committee for review. If outcomes are not received or the officer is no longer practicing in a clinical capacity and/or has transferred to a non-clinical agency, their certification is no longer considered active and they are removed from the roster.

→ Outcomes must be submitted **annually** by December 31st (for the reported fiscal year) to keep active certification. Outcomes should be sent to john.collins@ihs.gov. Outcomes reports available [here](#).

**IHS PHARMACISTS... We need to hear from you!**
**What are your barriers to becoming credentialed and privileged with your local medical staff?**
Please provide your response by completing this 2 minute [survey](#).

If you hold NCPS certification, you are among only **152** other pharmacists within USPHS!
If you do not hold NCPS certification, what can the NCPSC do to assist you in becoming certified? Let us know how we can help!

**NCPS website:** [https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/pharmacy/ncps.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/pharmacy/ncps.aspx)