



# Local Clinical Skills Competition

## Chapter Guide

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### Introduction

#### **Purpose of This Guide**

To help chapters successfully host a local clinical skills competition (CSC). The National Office believes it is important to have consistency among Local CSCs to ensure chapters are doing their best to prepare students for the Regional and National CSCs. Therefore, this guide was created to give chapters direction. Chapters are welcome to create additional rules or ideas outside of the contents of this guide, however the details included serve as the standard for the Local CSC.

#### **What is the CSC?**

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) Clinical Skills Competition Program is an educational opportunity for SNPhA members to display their pharmaceutical knowledge and patient assessment skills through case presentations and patient counseling. It is conducted by the National Office at both Regional Conferences and the National Conference. Local CSCs are planned, organized, and conducted by SNPhA chapters to provide their members an opportunity to demonstrate their pharmaceutical skills and prepare for the Regional and National CSC.

#### **Overview of the Competition**

The competition is completed by teams of two students. All participants will receive their patient's prescription information at the beginning of the start time and will be required to counsel the patient on appropriate information and use of the medications. Teams have 5 minutes to review the information and 5 minutes to counsel. The patient may display personality characteristics or other barriers to challenge the participants' ability to convey pertinent therapy information.

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### Components of the Competition

#### **Reviewing the Case**

Students will have five (5) minutes to review a patient's medication profile. Students will be allowed to use provided resources to prepare for the patient counseling session.

### **Patient Counseling Session**

Participants will have five (5) minutes to conduct a patient counseling session on the patient's prescribed medications. Patient-pharmacist interaction is the only section evaluated by judges.

### **Resources**

At the Local CSC, the SNPhA chapter will have resources available for participants to use. Participants will only be allowed to use the resources provided by the SNPhA chapter.

### **Attire**

Students will be expected to dress professionally during the competition. White coats are mandatory. Students will be required to supply their own white coats for the competition.

### **Rules**

- Students must meet eligibility requirements
- Students are required to dress professionally and wear their white lab coats
- Judges' decisions are final and are not subject to appeal

### **Eligibility**

- Participants must be current national SNPhA members
- Participants must be enrolled in a full-time Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program
- Participants must not be licensed to practice pharmacy

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## **Planning**

### **CSC Committee**

It is advised that chapters create a CSC Committee that is responsible for executing the competition. This committee should consist of 2-3 members. Consider the following tips for conducting CSC committee business:

- The CSC Committee should meet regularly
- Document all communication
- Start early! Establish a budget for the competition and a timeline
- Communicate with other chapters hosting competition to share ideas

### **Budget**

Chapters should consider the costs of hosting a local CSC and allocate a budget to cover the necessary expenses. Consider the following:

- Food/gifts/certificates for judges
- Promotional materials
- Prizes and/or certificates for participants

### **Materials**

- Drug Information Resource
  - For the Regional and National Competition Lexicomp is available for competitors
    - To best simulate these competitions, it is recommended that Lexicomp is used, however chapters may use whatever resources is accessible

- Judging Rubrics
  - All judges should be provided a rubric created by the chapter
- Patient Case
  - Two printed copies of the case should be provided to the team competing for their review
- Pharmacy Props
  - The competition is meant to simulate patient counseling; therefore props should be used as needed to mimic the pharmacy setting
  - Provide any OTC medication that are incorporated in the case
  - If the case incorporates disease state management, provide measuring devices such as a glucometer or blood pressure cuff for counseling

### **Advertisement**

Begin advertising the competition as early as possible. Consider creative ways to inform chapter members about the CSC. Utilize resources such as videos, posters, flyers, or emails. Personally invite SNPhA members that you believe will do well in competition and who have demonstrated an interest in competing at the Regional or National Competitions.

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## **Patient Case**

Local chapters are responsible for creating their own patient cases for the competition. It is important that the cases created resemble those used at the Regional Competition to ensure SNPhA members are getting a valuable experience, therefore chapters are encouraged to mimic cases posted on the SNPhA website located at <https://www.snpha.org/resources/2>.

### **Creating the Case**

- Get inspiration from P4s on rotation and faculty/staff who still have practice sites
- Try to do topics that are more on the challenging side
- Include barriers to make the patient/pharmacist interaction more realistic
- Provide multiple opportunities in the case for teams to show their clinical skills
- Be sure to prepare the mock patient so they are consistent with each team

Teams only have five (5) minutes to view the case before starting the counseling session. It is acceptable to provide a list of counseling tasks within the case to help focus the students' preparation and discussion. Additionally, teams only have five (5) minutes to counsel the patient. The case should provide a reasonable amount of opportunities for teams to demonstrate patient care considering the time allotted. The purpose of the case is to provide scenarios that have the capacity to show excellent pharmacy care, not to trick teams. It is strongly encouraged that patient cases are reviewed by both the National Vice President and Chapter Adviser before being used.

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## Judging

Three to five judges at the minimum should be recruited for the competition. Judges should be licensed pharmacists. It is advised that recruitment be aimed towards chapter advisors, faculty members, and local community or hospital pharmacists. Students should NOT perform the role of judge to ensure equality and appropriate evaluation of competitors. Judges will evaluate and score each team on the interaction and information presented during their patient counseling session according to criteria listed in the following guidelines.

### Patient Interaction

- Communicate the purpose and importance of the counseling session to the patient
- Use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to present medication information to the patient in a logical order
- Display confidence and ability to direct the counseling session
- Manage time effectively
- Collaborate with their other team member

### Communication Skills

- Display strong verbal and nonverbal communication skills
- Use an interactive approach by assessing patient understanding with open-ended questions
- Use language the patient will be able to understand
- Demonstrate effective counseling techniques

### Professional Knowledge

- Provide medication education to the patient in a manner that the patient can understand and use to benefit their therapy
- Convey accurate information concerning the patient's medication therapy, including but not limited to: medication, indication, dosage, form, route, duration, pertinent side effects, precautions, interactions, missed dose procedures, storage recommendations, and specific techniques for self-monitoring
- Discuss any potential therapeutic problems
- Correct any inaccurate information relayed by the patient
- Recognize compliance problems and increase adherence

## Example Judges Rubric

Category						Points
<b>Professional Knowledge</b>	<b>Did not complete</b>			<b>Somewhat Completed</b>	<b>Completed</b>	
Medication name	0			1	2	
Indication	0			1	2	
Dosage regimen	0			1	2	
Side effects	0			1	2	
Administration/ self-monitoring	0			1	2	
Warnings/ Precautions	0			1	2	
Missed dose	0			1	2	
Storage	0			1	2	
<b>Communication Skills</b>	<b>Not completed</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	
Clear verbal communication	0	1	2	3	4	
Appropriate nonverbal communication	0	1	2	3	4	
Language understood by patient	0	1	2	3	4	
Open ended questions	0	1	2	3	4	
Verified patient understanding	0	1	2	3	4	
<b>Patient Interaction</b>	<b>Not completed</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	
Counseled in logical order	0	1	2	3	4	
Maintained control of counseling session	0	1	2	3	4	
Managed time efficiently	0	1	2	3	4	
Team members worked together	0	1	2	3	4	
<b>General effect</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	
Counseling ability	1	2	3	4	5	
Level of patient care provided	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>Total Points (out of 62) =</b>						

## Tentative Timeline

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish CSC Committee</li><li>• Begin writing patient case</li></ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure judges</li><li>• Advertise competition</li><li>• Send out sign up sheet</li><li>• Host competition in late November</li></ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host competition</li></ul>

The Local CSC is recommended to be completed before the Regional CSC in February 2020! However, chapters are within their rights to host a competition after the Regional Conferences

Please consider the following dates when planning:

- Region III, IV & V Conference (Lexington, Kentucky) - February 14-16, 2020
- Region I & II Conference (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) - February 21-23, 2020

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## Conclusion

Planning a Local CSC is a large task but is possible with organization, early planning, teamwork, and effective communication. Hosting a Local CSC is a great way to promote part of SNPhA's mission of developing future pharmacists and prepare SNPhA members to excel at the Regional and National CSC. The National Office is currently exploring possible incentives for chapter participation in the Local CSC including future prizes and CIC opportunities

[CIC Guidelines](#) for the Local CSC are available for your chapter.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the National Vice President

**Contact:** Kathy Monangai, National Vice President ([kathymonangai@snpha.org](mailto:kathymonangai@snpha.org))

