



PART III

Guidelines for the National Competition

A. Notifying APhA

The winner must call the APhA National Office to schedule an appointment for the National Competition 1-800-237-APhA (2742), Ext.7514. An alternate should also be selected in the event that the winner is unable to attend the National Competition at the APhA2010 Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, DC. The deadline for scheduling an appointment is February 12, 2010.

B. Required Procedures

A checklist is provided on page 18 to prepare the local winner for the National Competition.

Each local winner must be an APhA-ASP member and must be registered for the APhA2010 Annual Meeting & Exposition in order to compete in the National Patient Counseling Competition. The winner is responsible for contacting the APhA National Office to schedule his or her National Competition appointment by February 12, 2010. An alternate should also be selected in the event that the winner is unable to attend the National Competition at the APhA Annual Meeting. A chapter may arrange financial assistance for its representative's travel expenses to the National Competition if funding is available. The top finishers at the National Competition will receive their cash awards after the APhA Annual Meeting. The chapter should ensure that its representative has the financial resources necessary for the entire convention.

Confirmation of the appointment time and location for the competition will be sent to the individuals along with specific details about the National Competition procedures. Participants should verify their appointment time immediately upon receipt of the confirmation email.

Individuals participating in the National Competition must be at the assigned location 10 minutes prior to the appointed time. Since the competition operates under a very rigid sched-

ule, there will be no make-ups for missed sessions. Participants are strongly encouraged to remain at the meeting for the APhA-ASP Awards Ceremony on Monday Evening.

C. Schedule and Planning

It is essential that participants in the National Competition schedule their appointments BEFORE making airline and hotel arrangements. Do not assume that appointments will be available at the local winner's convenience. Experience has shown that Friday and Saturday afternoon appointments fill-up first. If an appointment has not been reserved for a school or its winner and the student is unable to compete in the remaining slots available, the student will be unable to participate in the National Competition.

To allow ample time for judging, the National Competition preliminary round will begin on Friday morning and run through Saturday afternoon. The final round will be held on Sunday morning. Participants will know Saturday evening whether they have advanced to the final round. The APhA-ASP Awards Ceremony will be held Monday evening.

Each participant will also receive a list of 10 medications from which the medications for the preliminary and final rounds will be chosen.

D. Conducting the National Competition

The National Competition will be conducted in a similar manner to the local competition, only more challenging. Students are encouraged but not mandated to attend the orientation. The orientation will prepare the student as well as allow them to become familiarized with the filming room. Students will be briefed by the on-site coordinator on the com-



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petition rules and procedures before their counseling sessions begin. The rules are few and the directions are intentionally somewhat ambiguous to allow for discretionary creativity on the part of the student relative to the elements of a positive pharmacist/patient interaction. The student will be allowed five minutes to consult drug information resources and five additional minutes for counseling the patient, who will be role-playing a specified character. All counseling sessions will be videotaped. The decisions of the judges will be final.

E. Awards Program

The winner of the National Competition will receive \$1,000 and a National Patient Counseling Competition plaque with the winner's name engraved on the front. It is a tradition that the winner of the National Patient Counseling Competition be invited back the following year to serve as a judge for the next National Competition. The winner's school will receive a replica of the National Patient Counseling Trophy.

All finalists will receive a framed lithograph. Second, third, and fourth prizes are \$700, \$500, and \$300, respectively. Mementos will be given to all participants.

APhA will publicize the competition and the winners to the state and national pharmacy media.