



Annual National Student Pharmacist
P & T COMPETITION
EST. 2000



Guide to the P&T Competition

2027 edition

About the P&T Competition

- The AMCP Foundation National Student Pharmacist Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition is an annual team event designed to provide an immersive experience in the skills necessary for effective formulary review and management.
- Student teams work together as if they are preparing for — and presenting at — a mock P&T Committee meeting. Teams are tasked with developing a succinct, actionable formulary recommendation for a recently approved drug, following real-world managed care practices.
- An entry to the National P&T Competition typically consists of:
 - (1) A written evaluation of the competition study drug (“formulary drug monograph”) that includes recommendations for formulary placement and any associated utilization management strategies; and
 - (2) A P&T Committee presentation supported by PowerPoint slides.
- Preparing a P&T Competition entry involves extensive research into the clinical, humanistic, and pharmacoeconomic evidence supporting the value proposition of the competition study drug. Teams must collaborate effectively to:
 - Identify, critically evaluate, and synthesize the available evidence.
 - Develop a logical and defensible formulary recommendation supported by the evidence.
 - Summarize the recommendations and supporting evidence in a concise written monograph.
 - Prepare a brief presentation of the information that builds the case for the recommendations most effectively and persuasively.
- The National P&T Competition assumes that participating students have a basic understanding of principles of evidence-based medicine, literature retrieval and evaluation, the composition and function of P&T Committees, formulary structures and strategies, and utilization management techniques.
- A unique aspect of the National P&T Competition is access to an actual *drug dossier*: a comprehensive and concise report containing clinical and economic evidence and information that is developed and communicated by the manufacturer to health care decision makers for the purpose of formulary, coverage, policy, and reimbursement decision-making.

Drug dossiers may contain information deemed proprietary by a manufacturer.

The P&T Competition includes a number of procedures and safeguards to help preserve the confidentiality of that information.

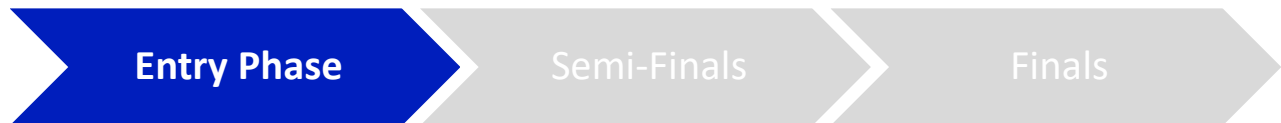
P&T Competition Newsletter

- AMCP Foundation communicates important P&T Competition news and information primarily via an email newsletter. The newsletter is the primary communications vehicle for the competition.
- The newsletter is sent on a mostly weekly basis beginning in September.
- AMCP Foundation encourages *everyone* interested in the P&T Competition — students, advisors, AMCP Diplomats, other participants and volunteers — to sign up for the newsletter.
- Note that if you sign up for the newsletter and do not receive any issues, you may need to ask your IT department to [“allowlist” Mailchimp delivery servers](#).

**Sign up for the P&T Competition email newsletter
via [this link](#)!**

National P&T Competition Phases

The National P&T Competition is conducted in phases. During each phase, judges appointed by AMCP Foundation evaluate and score competition assignments submitted by participating teams. The teams with the highest scores advance to the final round of competition, which is held in conjunction with the AMCP Annual meeting.



All schools that choose to enter the National P&T Competition are required to upload the following assignments to the competition online portal before the stated deadline:

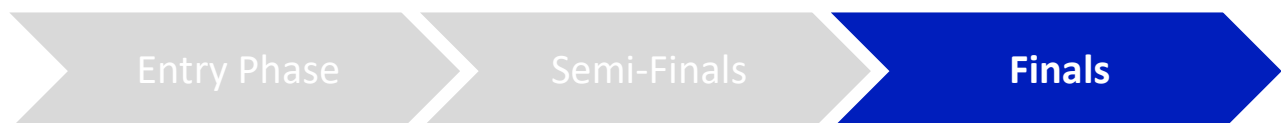
- ◆ Formulary drug monograph for the competition study drug, using the provided template.
- ◆ A PowerPoint file for a P&T Committee presentation (not to exceed 10 minutes) that succinctly conveys and supports the team's findings and recommendations.

During this phase, judges review and score the formulary drug monograph *only*.



The 15 teams with the highest scores advance to the Semi-Finals round.

During this phase, judges review and score the PowerPoint file submitted by each Semi-Finalist team.



The teams that achieve the highest scores during the Semi-Finals round are invited to compete in the final round of the P&T Competition, which culminates in a live session during the AMCP Annual meeting.

In the weeks leading up to the AMCP Annual meeting, the Finals judges review and score the formulary drug monograph and PowerPoint slides for all Finalist teams.

During the live P&T Competition Finals event, teams make their P&T Committee presentation to a panel of judges and respond to questions.

The top teams are determined based on total scores for the formulary drug monograph, PowerPoint file, and live presentation.

Note that Finalist teams are responsible for their own travel and registration expenses for attending AMCP Annual.

P&T Competition Teams

- The National P&T Competition is a team competition.
- P&T Competition teams usually (and ideally) are composed of four (4) student pharmacists. It is permissible for teams to compete with three (3) members, but this is not optimal or recommended. Teams cannot have fewer than three members.
- Teams with four members may designate one additional student to serve as an “alternate” in case any of the official team members are unable to compete for any reason.
- P&T Competition teams ideally should include students in different years of the pharmacy curriculum.
- Each team should designate one member as the “Team Lead,” to provide oversight (e.g., ensure that all competition deadlines are met) and serve as a point of contact.
- **All** members of teams entering the National P&T Competition **must** be active (paid) [AMCP Student Pharmacist members](#).

Eligibility

- The National P&T Competition is open to students enrolled full-time in a Doctor of Pharmacy program at schools and colleges of pharmacy [recognized as “Accredited”](#) by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).
- Students enrolled full-time in dual-degree programs (e.g., PharmD/MBA) are eligible to compete.
- Students enrolled only in programs other than a Doctor of Pharmacy program — for example, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, or PhD programs — are **not** eligible to compete.
- Residents and fellows are **not** eligible to compete.

One Team per School

- Each accredited pharmacy school/college may enter **one** team into the National P&T Competition. If more than one team is interested in participating in the national competition, a single team must be selected (e.g., the winner of a local competition).

- Accredited schools that have multiple branches or campuses may enter only **one** team into the national competition — representing all branches/campuses — unless each campus is recognized as a separate accredited school/college.

P&T Competition Roles

Student Competition Coordinator

- Each pharmacy school/college must designate **one student Competition Coordinator** to serve as the primary liaison between the school and AMCP Foundation.
- The student Competition Coordinator is responsible for disseminating important P&T Competition materials to all members of competing teams and for keeping teams informed about important P&T Competition news.

The student Competition Coordinator also is responsible for forwarding questions from individual teams or team members to AMCP Foundation. Responses to questions must be shared with **all** teams and team members, so as not to advantage or disadvantage any one team.

- The student Competition Coordinator is ultimately responsible for ensuring that their school's complete entry to the National P&T Competition is uploaded to the online portal by the stated entry deadline.
- It is permissible for student Competition Coordinators to participate on P&T Competition teams.
- If a pharmacy school/college has more than one campus, a single student Competition Coordinator should be selected to serve as the primary liaison between AMCP Foundation and **all** competing teams on **all** campuses affiliated with the pharmacy school/college.

It may be helpful to designate Assistant Competition Coordinators on each campus to coordinate communication among campuses.

- AMCP Student Pharmacist Chapters are encouraged to place their Competition Coordinator on their Executive Boards along with President, Vice President, etc.

Advisor(s)

- Each pharmacy school/college must designate **at least one P&T Competition Advisor**.
- The Advisor typically is the AMCP Student Pharmacist Chapter Faculty Advisor or another faculty member. However, it is permissible to have a competition Advisor who is not an employee of the pharmacy school/college.
- The P&T Competition Advisor is **not** required to be an AMCP member.

P&T Competition Procedures

Intention to Compete

- Pharmacy schools/colleges must register their intention to compete in the National P&T Competition in the Fall of each year. Official competition materials are available only to registered schools.
- Registering the intention to compete involves creating a single school account in the P&T Competition online portal and providing contact information for the school's student Competition Coordinator, AMCP Student Pharmacist Chapter President (if applicable), and Advisor(s).
- Schools should register their intention to compete even if they are unsure whether they will submit an entry to the National P&T Competition. There is no penalty for schools that ultimately decide not to enter.
- Step-by-step instructions for creating a school account and registering the intention to compete are provided via the P&T Competition newsletter and current year competition webpage at the time the portal opens.

Team ID

- The National P&T Competition is judged blind. To conceal the identity of teams from judges, each pharmacy school/college is assigned a 5-digit Team ID when the intention to compete is registered.
- The Team ID must be incorporated into the files that constitute a school's single entry to the National P&T Competition.

Case Study and Team Assignments

- Specific, detailed instructions for preparing National P&T Competition entries are provided in a "Case Study and Team Assignments" document.
- Access to this document — along with associated templates, forms, resources, and judging criteria — is provided via a shared online folder.
- Instructions for accessing the online folder are provided only to the student Competition Coordinator and primary Advisor at registered schools (i.e., schools that have registered an intention to compete).

- The Competition Coordinator is responsible for downloading and disseminating the Case Study and Team Assignments document and all associated materials to all participating students/teams.

“Early Access” to Competition Materials

- There are two deadlines for registering a school’s intention to compete in the National P&T Competition: “early access” and final.
- Pharmacy schools/colleges that register by the early access deadline (usually in mid-October) gain first access to the Case Study and Team Assignments document and associated materials. Students and Advisors at those schools also are the first to become eligible for access to the drug dossier (see next section).
- Pharmacy schools/colleges that do not register by the early access deadline must register their intention to compete in the National P&T Competition by the final deadline in November. These schools gain access to competition materials after Thanksgiving (late November/early December).

Access to the Drug Dossier/FormularyDecisions® Accounts

- Access to an electronic version of the manufacturer dossier (“eDossier”) for the P&T Competition study drug is provided through FormularyDecisions®.
- To help preserve the confidentiality of proprietary information in the eDossier, **access can be granted only to verified P&T Competition participants at registered schools.**
- Students and competition Advisors must apply and be approved for individual accounts on the FormularyDecisions (Academia version) site. Step-by-step instructions for creating accounts are provided when account registration opens.
- Students and Advisors are not eligible to apply for eDossier access until after their pharmacy school/college has created an account in the P&T Competition online portal and registered its intention to compete.

Use of the Nested Knowledge® Platform

- AMCP Foundation has partnered with Nested Knowledge® to make its platform available to students as a **required** component of the National P&T Competition. The Nested Knowledge software platform was created to support and facilitate systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

- P&T Competition participants use the Nested Knowledge platform to conduct literature searches, screen articles, and generate some required components of the drug monograph (e.g., PRISMA diagram).
- Students and competition Advisors are able to (and invited to) create individual accounts with Nested Knowledge.
- Instructions for creating collaborative team groups within Nested Knowledge are provided as part of the P&T Competition materials.
- Specific instructions for generating, downloading, and incorporating required components of the formulary drug monograph are included in the “Case Study and Team Assignments” document.

Local Competitions

- Each accredited pharmacy school/college may submit only **one** entry (i.e., enter only one team) to the National P&T Competition. If more than one team is interested in competing, the school must decide on a single team. Many schools conduct a local competition to determine a single winning team.
- **There is no requirement to conduct a local competition. Local competitions are not an official part of the National P&T Competition, and AMCP Foundation is not involved in local competitions.**
- Schools are free to conduct local competitions in any way that makes the best use of available resources and accommodates all interested student pharmacists. A popular approach is to mimic the format of the National P&T Competition by having teams submit a written drug monograph in advance of a live (in person or virtual) mock P&T Committee presentation supported by PowerPoint slides.
- AMCP Foundation provides judging criteria in the form of scoring matrixes as part of the official P&T Competition materials. Schools are free to modify these criteria as desired for local competitions.
- AMCP Foundation also makes it possible for local competition judges to gain access to the eDossier for the P&T Competition study drug. AMCP Foundation asks student Competition Coordinators to provide information about judges via an electronic form, to facilitate account approval.
AMCP Foundation regrets that **due to confidentiality considerations, judges employed by biopharmaceutical companies or involved in the preparation of manufacturer dossiers are not permitted to access the eDossier for the study drug.**

- The AMCP Student Pharmacist Committee offers a [resource titled “How to Conduct a Local P&T Competition Guide.”](#) Schools are encouraged to consult that resource for additional guidance regarding local competitions.

Submitting National P&T Competition Entries

- Entries to the National P&T Competition are due in late January each year.
- The assignments and files that constitute an entry are uploaded to the P&T Competition online portal, using the same account created to register the school’s intention to compete.
- Specific, detailed instructions for preparing and uploading entries are provided to student Competition Coordinators and Advisors. **Failure to follow or adhere to these instructions may result in team disqualification.**

Feedback to Teams

- AMCP Foundation provides feedback to the Advisor at each participating pharmacy school/college at the conclusion of the P&T Competition cycle (i.e., after the live P&T Competition Finals event held in conjunction with the AMCP Annual meeting).
- The feedback is a summary of judges’ comments about the drug monograph evaluated during the Entry Phase of the P&T Competition.
- In the interest of fairness to all teams, AMCP Foundation does not provide any additional feedback to Semi-Finalist and Finalist teams about other competition assignments/components.
- AMCP Foundation does not share numeric scores with any teams.

P&T Competition Timeline

The National P&T Competition follows an academic year calendar. The competition launches each year in September; the deadline for entries to the national competition usually falls near the end of January. Finalist teams compete in a live event held in conjunction with the AMCP Annual Meeting (March or April).

Information specific to the current year P&T Competition is shared throughout each competition cycle on a dedicated web page. That page is refreshed in August each year and accessible from the [main P&T Competition web page](#).

When	What Happens
September	• The current year competition is launched with a special “P&T Competition Kick-Off” edition of the (mostly) weekly email newsletter—the main communication vehicle for the competition • Pharmacy schools are invited to register their intention to compete in the National P&T Competition via an online portal • Students and Advisors are invited to create individual accounts with the Nested Knowledge software platform
October	• The “Case Study and Team Assignments” document and associated materials are shared with schools that register their intention to compete in the National P&T Competition by the “early access” deadline • Students and Advisors at registered schools are invited to create accounts on the FormularyDecisions site to gain access to the eDossier for the case study drug
November	• Final deadline for schools to register an intention to compete in the National P&T Competition
December	• The “Case Study and Team Assignments” document and associated materials are shared with all schools that registered after the early access deadline • Students and Advisors at schools that registered after the early access deadline are invited to create accounts on the FormularyDecisions site to gain access to the eDossier for the case study drug • Schools are asked to share information for local competition judges who need eDossier access

When	What Happens
January	National P&T Competition entry deadline • Schools conduct local competitions (if applicable) • Assignments that constitute each school's single team entry are uploaded to P&T Competition online portal
January–February	• Initial Entry Phase judging takes place • Semi-Finalist teams are announced • Semi-Finals judging takes place
March–April	• Finalist teams are announced • Finalist teams compete during live event held in conjunction with AMCP Annual meeting

Additional P&T Competition Rules and Requirements

Communication

- Individual teams or team members **are not permitted** to contact AMCP Foundation directly.

The student Competition Coordinator is responsible for forwarding questions from individual teams or team members to AMCP Foundation and sharing responses with **all** teams or team members.

- Individual teams or team members **may not** contact the manufacturer of the P&T Competition study drug or any representative of the company (e.g., local sales representative or medical science liaison) to obtain additional information about the drug.

Whenever possible, the AMCP Foundation will arrange for a presentation by the manufacturer to all pharmacy schools/colleges that intend to compete.

- Individual teams or team members **may not** contact FormularyDecisions for any reason other than to troubleshoot problems with site registration and account creation.

Proprietary Nature of P&T Competition Materials and Entries

- The National P&T Competition provides an immersive experience in the skills necessary for effective formulary review and management. Part of that immersive experience is access to an actual drug dossier that may contain information deemed proprietary by a manufacturer.

AMCP Foundation usually is granted permission to use and share proprietary information only for the duration of the current competition cycle, and only with verified P&T Competition participants.

- Because P&T Competition materials and entries may contain proprietary information, all materials and entries are considered to be the property of AMCP Foundation.
- Because AMCP Foundation is obligated to preserve the confidentiality of proprietary information, all P&T Competition materials and entries are considered to be confidential: for competition use **only**, for the **current** competition cycle only.
- P&T Competition materials and entries **may not** be distributed or shared beyond the current competition cycle. AMCP Foundation requests that pharmacy schools/colleges destroy **all** local copies of all competition materials and entries at the conclusion of the competition year.

- P&T Competition materials and entries **may not** be posted on any social media sites or otherwise shared publicly.

Coaching and Mentoring P&T Competition Teams

- The National P&T Competition assumes a basic level of understanding of principles of evidence-based medicine, literature retrieval and evaluation, the composition and function of P&T Committees, formulary structures and strategies, and utilization management techniques.

P&T Competition Advisors are permitted and encouraged to educate team members about these topics, as well as to provide assistance with writing and presentation skills.

- Members of a school's prior year P&T Competition teams may serve as mentors for the current year competition, provided that the mentor treats all teams equally (i.e., serves as a mentor for **all** teams, not just one).
- Teams may consult P&T Competition Advisors regarding research resources and to verify or clarify information gathered through independent research.

Advisors **may not** suggest references or resources that were not identified through independent research. For example, if an Advisor reviews a drug monograph and notices that the team failed to identify a critical study, the Advisor cannot direct the team to that specific study; the Advisor can only suggest that team members continue searching for additional resources.

- P&T Competition Advisors (or other volunteers, such as AMCP Diplomats or local AMCP members) may provide guidance to teams on the usual operations and expectations of a P&T Committee.

For example, if a team's PowerPoint presentation is missing a major section, Advisors are permitted to tell the team to add that specific section.

However, if a team fails to include important trial XYZ in the clinical trials section of the PowerPoint, Advisors **may not** tell the team to add that trial; they can only suggest that team members expand their search for clinical trials.

- P&T Competition Advisors may engage a knowledgeable clinician to educate **all** team members about the disease state addressed in the competition case study.

Specifically, the clinician may share objective information about (e.g.) the natural history of the disease, usual patient journey, current standard of care, etc.

Clinicians must refrain from providing any subjective comment or expert opinion about the merits or lack of merit of various treatment options for the disease, so as not to unduly influence team members' evaluation of the study drug.

Clinicians also must refrain from discussing or sharing opinions about the effectiveness or safety of the study drug, its place in therapy, or its direct competitors.

Clinicians must not discuss or share opinions about the manufacturer of the study drug.

P&T Competition Resources

AMCP Foundation shares resources specific to the P&T Competition on the current year competition webpage (accessible from the [main P&T Competition webpage](#)).

AMCP offers a number of resources that provide valuable insight into managed care pharmacy, formulary structures and strategies, P&T Committees, product dossiers, and product reviews. Student pharmacists and P&T Competition Advisors are encouraged to consult these resources to enhance their understanding of competition concepts.

- Managed Care Glossary
<https://amcp.org/about/managed-care-pharmacy-101/managed-care-glossary>
- Managed Care Pharmacy Primer Series
<https://amcp.org/mcp-primer-series>
- Methodology for Conducting a Comprehensive Product Review in Managed Care (*JMCP* article)
<https://www.jmcp.org/doi/10.18553/jmcp.2023.29.3.237>
- AMCP Partnership Forum: Principles for Sound Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee Practices: What's Next? (*JMCP* article)
<https://www.jmcp.org/doi/10.18553/jmcp.2020.26.1.48>
- AMCP Format 5.0 for Formulary Submissions — Guidance on Submission of Pre-Approval and Post-Approval Clinical and Economic Information and Evidence
<https://www.amcp.org/resource/amcp-format-50-formulary-submissions-guidance-submission-pre-approval-and-post-approval-clinical-and>

AMCP Diplomats

Diplomats are AMCP members who volunteer to work with a school/college of pharmacy as a managed care pharmacy resource for student pharmacists and faculty. Schools are encouraged to reach out to their assigned AMCP Diplomat for assistance with managed care concepts.

AMCP maintains a [searchable directory](#) that includes the names of Diplomats assigned to each school. If you have any problems finding or contacting your Diplomat, contact studentdevelopment@amcp.org.