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Board of Registration in Pharmacy

Policy 2023-11: Pharmacy Technician Training and Examinations

In accordance with the requirements of [247 CMR 8.00](#), the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy ("Board") outlines the following pathways and requirements for pharmacy technician [licensure](#). Any one of the four pathways below may be utilized. Pharmacy technician competency examinations that fall within the criteria as described below are considered Board-approved.

I. Board-Approved Certification Examinations

Passing one of the following national examinations allows the applicant to apply for licensure without any further training or examinations:

1. Pharmacy Technician Training Board ("PTCB");
2. Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians ("ExCPT"); or
3. Nationally Registered Certified Pharmacy Technician (NRCPhT).

II. Technician Training Programs Including Competency Examination

1. Complete one of the following Board-approved training programs:
 - a. programs recognized by the Pharmacy Technician Training Board ("PTCB");
 - b. programs accredited by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists ("ASHP"); or
 - c. programs provided by a branch of the United States Armed Services or Public Health Service.
2. After completion of an approved program, the applicant must pass (with at least a 75%) a program-administered competency examination that covers the following knowledge-based areas:
 - a. practice settings;
 - b. duties and responsibilities of a pharmacy technician in relationship to other pharmacy personnel;
 - c. laws and regulations regarding the practice of pharmacy and patient confidentiality;
 - d. medical abbreviations and symbols;

- e. common dosage calculations; and
- f. identification of drugs, dosages, routes of administration, and storage requirements.

NOTE: The competency examination must have at least 50 questions and be available for Board review upon request.

III. On-the-Job Training Including Competency Examination

After a minimum of 500 hours of employment as a pharmacy technician trainee (“PTT”), the PTT must pass (with at least a 75%) an employer-administered competency examination that covers the following knowledge-based areas:

- 1. practice settings;
- 2. duties and responsibilities of a pharmacy technician in relationship to other pharmacy personnel;
- 3. laws and regulations regarding the practice of pharmacy and patient confidentiality;
- 4. medical abbreviations and symbols;
- 5. common dosage calculations; and
- 6. identification of drugs, dosages, routes of administration, and storage requirements.

NOTE: The competency examination must have at least 50 questions and be available for Board review upon request.

IV. Reciprocity / Transfer

If licensed / registered as a Pharmacy Technician in another U.S. state or jurisdiction, a letter of verification of licensure must be provided, regardless of its status (e.g., current, expired, etc.). It must be on letterhead of the board where licensed / registered. No additional examination is required.

Supersedes Policy 2020-04

Please direct any questions to: Pharmacy.Admin@mass.gov