The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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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](https://www.mass.gov/doc/247-cmr-8-pharmacy-interns-and-technicians/download), the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy (“Board”) outlines the following pathways and requirements for pharmacy technician [licensure](https://www.mass.gov/pharmacy-technician-licensing). 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.

1. **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).
1. **Technician Training Programs Including Competency Examination**
2. Complete one of the following Board-approved training programs:
	1. programs recognized by the Pharmacy Technician Training Board (“PTCB”);
	2. programs accredited by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (“ASHP”); or
	3. programs provided by a branch of the United States Armed Services or Public Health Service.
3. 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:
	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.

1. **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.

1. **Reciprocation / 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**