



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Meeting of the Board of Pharmacy

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Tentative Agenda of Meeting

Regulation Committee for Pharmacy Technician to Pharmacist Ratio

February 16, 2012

9:00am – 11:00am

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
Call to Order: Jody H. Allen, Committee Chairman <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions• Reading of emergency evacuation script• Approval of Agenda	1-16

Call for public comment: The Board will not receive comment on any regulation process for which a public comment period has closed or any pending disciplinary matters. The Board will receive comments on specific topics on this agenda at the time the matter is taken up by the Board.

Discuss current supervision requirement in Regulation 18 VAC110-20-270 B that no pharmacist shall supervise more than four persons acting as pharmacy technicians at one time

Adjourn: The committee will adjourn at approximately 11:00am.

§ 54.1-3320. Acts restricted to pharmacists.

A. Within the practice of pharmacy as defined in § 54.1-3300, the following acts shall be performed by pharmacists, except as provided in subsection B:

1. The review of a prescription, in conformance with this chapter and Chapter 34 (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.) of this title and with current practices in pharmacy, for its completeness, validity, safety, and drug-therapy appropriateness, including, but not limited to, interactions, contraindications, adverse effects, incorrect dosage or duration of treatment, clinical misuse or abuse, and noncompliance and duplication of therapy;
2. The receipt of an oral prescription from a practitioner or his authorized agent;
3. The conduct of a prospective drug review and counseling as required by § 54.1-3319 prior to the dispensing or refilling of any prescription;
4. The provision of information to the public or to a practitioner concerning the therapeutic value and use of drugs in the treatment and prevention of disease;
5. The communication with the prescriber, or the prescriber's agent, involving any modification other than refill authorization of a prescription or of any drug therapy, resolution of any drug therapy problem, or the substitution of any drug prescribed;
6. The verification of the accuracy of a completed prescription prior to dispensing the prescription;
7. The supervision of pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians; and
8. Any other activity required by regulation to be performed by a pharmacist.

B. A pharmacy intern may engage in the acts to be performed by a pharmacist as set forth in subsection A or the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.) for the purpose of obtaining practical experience required for licensure as a pharmacist, if the supervising pharmacist is directly monitoring these activities.

C. A registered pharmacy technician, working under the direct supervision of a qualified nuclear pharmacist, as defined by regulations of the Board, may accept oral prescriptions for diagnostic, nonpatient specific radiopharmaceuticals in accordance with subsection C of § 54.1-3410.1.

D. Consistent with patient safety, a pharmacist shall exercise sole authority in determining the maximum number of pharmacy technicians that he shall supervise; however, no pharmacist shall supervise more pharmacy technicians than allowed by Board regulations.

18VAC110-20-270. Dispensing of prescriptions; certification of completed prescriptions; supervision of pharmacy technicians.

A. In addition to the acts restricted to a pharmacist in §54.1-3320 A of the Code of Virginia, a pharmacist shall provide personal supervision of compounding of extemporaneous preparations by pharmacy technicians.

B. A pharmacist shall determine the number of pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees he can safely and competently supervise at one time; however, no pharmacist shall supervise more than four persons acting as pharmacy technicians at one time.

C. After the prescription has been prepared and prior to the delivery of the order, the pharmacist shall inspect the prescription product to verify its accuracy in all respects, and place his initials on the record of dispensing as a certification of the accuracy of, and the responsibility for, the entire transaction. Such record showing verification of accuracy shall be maintained on a pharmacy record for the required time period of two years, unless otherwise specified in regulation

D. If a pharmacist declines to fill a prescription for any reason other than the unavailability of the drug prescribed, he shall record on the back of the prescription the word "declined"; the name, address, and telephone number of the pharmacy; the date filling of the prescription was declined; and the signature of the pharmacist.

E. If a pharmacist determines from a prescriber or by other means, including the use of his professional judgment, that a prescription presented for dispensing is a forgery, the pharmacist shall not return the forged prescription to the person presenting it. The forged prescription may be given to a law-enforcement official investigating the forgery; or it shall be retained for a minimum of 30 days before destroying it, in the event it is needed for an investigative or other legitimate purpose.

States with Ratios that License/Register Pharmacy Technicians					
2:1 ratio	3:1 ratio	4:1 ratio	5:1 ratio	6:1 ratio	No ratio
Arkansas	Alabama	Indiana	Puerto Rico	Idaho	Alaska
Connecticut	*Colorado	Massachusetts			Arizona
Kansas	Connecticut	New Mexico			DC
Minnesota	Florida	North Dakota			Guam
Mississippi	Georgia	Virginia			Illinois
Nebraska	Kansas	West Virginia			Iowa
New York	Louisiana	Wisconsin			Kentucky
North Carolina	Maine				Maryland
Oklahoma	Montana				Missouri
South Dakota	Nevada				New Hampshire
Tennessee	South Carolina				New Jersey
Texas	Washington				Oregon
	Wyoming				Rhode Island
					Texas
					Utah

*Colorado has a 3:1 ratio, but does not actually license or register pharmacy technicians.

States with No Ratio that License/Register Pharmacy Technicians				
State	License Techs?	Register techs?	No ratio?	Training/Examination/Certification?
Alaska	Yes		No	OTJ per PIC; no exam
Arizona	Yes		No	PTCB required
DC		Legislation pending	No	PTCB or ExCPT or other state certifying body Board-recognized
Guam		Yes	No	Regs in development
Illinois		Yes	No	Either PTCB or Bd exam
Iowa		Yes	No	National cert required by 2013
Kentucky		Yes	No	No training; no exam; no cert
Maryland		Yes	No	Training, exam, and cert required
Missouri		Yes	No	No training; no exam; no cert; finger print required
New Hampshire		Yes	No	No training; no exam; no cert
New Jersey		Yes	Varies	No training; no exam; no cert
Oregon	Yes		No	Training required for both cert and non-cert techs; exam only required for cert techs
Rhode Island	Yes		No	Training and cert techs must maintain certification
Texas		Yes	None for institutional care	May be tech trainee no more than 2 yrs while obtaining PTCB
Utah	Yes		No	PTBC or ExCPT and law exam
Vermont		Yes	No	No training; no exam; no cert

States with No Ratio that Do Not License/Register Pharmacy Technicians				
State	License Techs?	Register techs?	No ratio	
Delaware	No	No	No	
Hawaii	No	No	No	
Michigan	No	No	No	
Ohio	No	No	No	
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	

Survey sent to states with No Ratio that license/register pharmacy technicians:

	Alaska	Iowa	Arizona	Kentucky	Texas/SC/ Utah
1. Is there any discussion on the horizon for creating a maximum ratio of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists? If so, why?	No.	No.	No, it's not a patient safety issue and probably never was.	Currently there is not any discussion regarding ratio of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists.	Refer to narratives below
2. Is there any concern for the lack of ratio in your state?	No.	No.	Not significant	At times there has been some discussion from pharmacists regarding a ratio, no formal request(s).	
3. Has this state ever had a maximum ratio of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists? If so, when and why was it eliminated?	No.	No.	Yes it was 2:1 for about 15 yrs.; then 3:1 if one was PTCB for 3 yrs. (to encourage certification); then removed altogether.	Kentucky has not had a ratio.	
4. Does your state require a pharmacy technician to obtain a national certification or some form	No.	Yes, must be certified; certification must be maintained permanently to continue working as	Eliminated in 2003-2004 at which time technicians were licensed. Licensure	Kentucky does not require national certification or form of higher education,	

<p>of higher education? If so, please describe? If a certification, for how long must it be maintained?</p>		<p>a technician. Accepts both PTCB and ExCPT.</p>	<p>ensured ability to discipline so no longer a need for a ratio.</p>	<p>only registration with the Board.</p>	
<p>5. Any additional information you feel the Virginia board should take into consideration?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No significant problems since ratio eliminated, but may be partially related to the fact that we still require 60 sq. ft. per person employed after 3 persons for first 300 sq. ft. minimum in retail pharmacies. So, for example, 5 persons require 420 sq. ft. minimum.</p>	<p>The Board did look at allowing pharmacy technicians (certified) to complete prescription transfers of non-controlled substances; however, it was tabled due to groups opposing it at the time. Currently looking into automation in pharmacies (institutional) and seeing what will be the role of pharmacy technicians.</p>	

South Carolina

One pharmacist may not supervise more than 3 pharmacy technicians at a time; at least two of the 3 techs must be state certified. If supervise 1 or 2, then not required to be state certified.

Persons performing only clerical fxns, including data entry up to the pt of dispensing not considered pharmacy technicians.

Texas

1. Is there any discussion on the horizon for creating a maximum ratio of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists? If so, why?

Texas currently, has several different “maximum ratios” of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians. Here’s what we have now:

1. **Class C Institutional (Hospital) Pharmacies.** The Texas Pharmacy Act in Section 554.053 (b) prohibits the Board from setting a ratio in Class C Pharmacies. The actual language in the law reads: **“(b) The board may not adopt a rule establishing a ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians in a Class C pharmacy or limiting the number of pharmacy technicians that may be used in a Class C pharmacy.”** This provision was placed in the Pharmacy Act in 1981. Prior to 1981, the Board of Pharmacy only had jurisdiction over outpatient dispensing in hospitals. The Board did not have any jurisdiction over inpatient pharmacy practice. Part of the negotiation to get jurisdiction over inpatient pharmacy practice resulted in placing the language in 554.053(b) in the pharmacy act. We have operated with this provision since 1981. I’m not aware of any problems this “unlimited” ratio has caused in Class C pharmacies.
2. **Class A (Community) Pharmacies.** We have basically 2-ratios (see rule language below – §291.32(d)(3)). For most Class A pharmacies the ratio may not exceed 1:3 provided at least one technician is a pharmacy technician (i.e. not a pharmacy technician trainee). If the pharmacist is supervision only pharmacy technician trainees, the ratio may not exceed 1:2. The “other” ratio is specified in the pharmacy act. This provision was passed about 6-years ago. This provision specifies that the ration may be 1:5. At the time this provision was passed and currently only one pharmacy in the state met the criteria for this expanded ratio.

§291.32 Operational Standards

xxx

- (d) Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Technician Trainees.

xxx

(3) Ratio of on-site pharmacist to pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees.

(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the ratio of on-site pharmacists to pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees **may be 1:3, provided the pharmacist is on-site and at least one of the three is a pharmacy technician. The ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technician trainees may not exceed 1:2.**

(B) As specified in §568.006 of the Act, a Class A pharmacy **may have a ratio of on-site pharmacists to pharmacy technicians/pharmacy technician trainees of 1:5 provided:**

(i) the Class A pharmacy:

(I) dispenses no more than 20 different prescription drugs;
and

(II) does not produce sterile preparations including intravenous or intramuscular drugs on-site; and

(ii) the following conditions are met:

(I) at least four are pharmacy technicians and not pharmacy technician trainees; and

(II) The pharmacy has written policies and procedures regarding the supervision of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees, including requirements that the pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees included in a 1:5 ratio may be involved only in one process at a time. For example, a technician/trainee who is compounding non-sterile preparations or who is involved in the preparation of prescription drug orders may not also call physicians for authorization of refills.

3. **Class G Pharmacies (Central Prescription Drug or Medication Order Processing Pharmacies)** – These pharmacies only process prescription orders and they do not stock any prescription drugs. In this setting the Board allows a ration of 1:6. (See the rule below).

§291.153 Central Prescription Drug or Medication Order Processing Pharmacy (Class G)

xxx

(c) Personnel.

xxx

(4) Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Technician Trainees.

xxx

(C) Ratio of pharmacist to pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees. **A Class G pharmacy may have a ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians/pharmacy technician trainees of 1:6** provided:

(i) at least five are pharmacy technicians and not pharmacy technician trainees; and

(ii) the pharmacy has written policies and procedures regarding the supervision of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees.

2. **Is there any concern for the lack of ratio in your state?** We have not had any problems with the lack of a ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians in Class C (Hospital) pharmacies

3. **Has this state ever had a maximum ratio of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists? If so, when and why was it eliminated?** Texas has had a ratio of pharmacist to pharmacy technicians in Class A (Community) Pharmacies for more than 30-years. As indicated above, we have also established ratios in other types of pharmacies. The only type of pharmacies that we have not established a maximum ratio is Class C (Hospital) Pharmacies. TSBP is prohibited from setting a ratio in this setting.

4. **Does your state require a pharmacy technician to obtain a national certification or some form of higher education? If so, please describe? If a certification, for how long must it be maintained?** Texas requires pharmacy technicians to take and pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Examination. We have no requirement for technicians to maintain this certification after they are registered with TSBP.

Utah

Is a state that had a ratio of 3:1 for many years but now has no limit (but the number of tech has to be reasonable). One of the reasons for making the change was to put the decision in the pharmacists hand to determine how much help they needed rather than in the state boards hands. A defined ratio also basically says that all practice sites are the same and we know that is not true. Likewise, physicians and nurses determine the amount of help they need and have done so

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for many years and we felt that pharmacy could do the same. The last and perhaps most important reasons to change were to free up the pharmacist to do pharmacist duties and let the technical duties be done by technicians.

At the time UT looked at this there were 17 states that had no limit and 10 that had a limit but providers could seek board approval to exceed the maximum limit. We then reviewed the evidence regarding ratio and found out that there is no good evidence regarding what number is the right number and that the number states had selected were essentially picked out of thin air.

States were polled that did not have a ratio and universally they stated that the profession is really good a regulating this as additional help is only needed if the pharmacy has to work to support it. In other words, they are not going to hire more techs than needed.

There was some concern regarding the lack of a ratio so UT did include some language in the rule regarding that it has to be reasonable "assuring that no pharmacy or pharmacist operates the pharmacy or allows operation of the pharmacy with a ratio of pharmacist to pharmacy technician/pharmacy intern/support personnel which, under the circumstances of the particular practice setting, results in, or reasonably would be expected to result in, an unreasonable risk" In other words, you can pack 10 technicians with 1 pharmacist into a pharmacy that would not reasonably accommodate that number of people. If a pharmacist were to challenge this the board would determine if it is reasonable or not. of harm to public health, safety, and welfare." UT also added a penalty for employers who force their pharmacists to work with more techs than they are comfortable with.

(Requiring a pharmacist to operate a pharmacy with unsafe personnel ratio:

initial offense: \$500 - \$2,000

subsequent offense: \$2,000 - \$10,000)

There was also concern that techs would take pharmacist jobs. National and local data demonstrate just the opposite in that as the number of techs went up so did the number of pharmacists.

Our techs are licensed and have to get nationally certified (PCTB or ExCPT).

UT has had no ratio for about 1 year and has had no problems.

Regionally

State	Ratio
Virginia	4:1
DC	No ratio; legislation pending to register pharmacy technicians
Tennessee	2:1, 3:1 if technician certified
Kentucky	No ratio
West Virginia	4:1
North Carolina	2:1 with allowance for higher (generally has not exceeded 4:1)

Feedback from other Regional States that were not otherwise polled

North Carolina

NC law sets a default allowable ratio of 2:1. The statute says that a pharmacy can go above the 2:1 ratio if two things happen: (1) every technician above the 2:1 ratio is a certified technician (recognize PTCB only); and (2) the pharmacy obtains approval from the Board. Executive Director approves any 3:1 or 4:1 request provided the pharmacy shows it has a sufficient number of certified technicians. Any request above 4:1 must be presented to the Board. Very few folks go to the Board to ask for more than a 4:1 ratio. The Board did approve once a 6:1 ratio, in a case where the demonstrated need for more technicians was for repackaging.

DC

The legislation is pending hearing with the Committee on Health in City Council. The legislation does not have any ratio requirements included. The Board felt that this should be a decision made by the pharmacist to be sure that they have the correct staff at the correct time to safely provide service. They included the language below:

“(c) Consistent with patient safety, a pharmacist shall not undertake the supervision of more pharmacy technicians and trainees than he or she can safely supervise. The pharmacist shall be fully responsible for the practice of each technician and trainee during the period of supervision and may be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of this act by a technician or trainee he or she supervises.”



13. Status of Pharmacy Technicians

- From NABP Survey of Pharmacy Law 2012

State	Designation	Does State:			Technician Registration Fee	Registration Renewal Schedule
		License Tech-nicians?	Register Tech-nicians?	Certify Tech-nicians?		
Alabama	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$60	Biennial II
Alaska	Pharmacy Technician	Yes	No	No	\$50 HH, UU	Biennial
Arizona	Pharmacy Technician	Yes	No	No	B	Biennial
Arkansas	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$70	Biennial
California	Pharmacy Technician	Yes	Yes	No	\$80	Biennial
Colorado	Unlicensed Personnel, Unlicensed Assistant	No	No	No	N/A	N/A
Connecticut	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$100	Annual - 3/31
Delaware	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	No	None	N/A
District of Columbia	Ancillary Personnel	No J	No J	No J	—	—
Florida	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$100	Biennial
Georgia	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	No	—	—
Guam	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	J	J
Hawaii	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	No	N/A	N/A
Idaho	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes M	Yes M	\$35	Annual
Illinois	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	Yes PP	\$40 initial; \$25 renewal	Annual
Indiana	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	Yes K	\$25 WW	Biennial
Iowa	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	Yes H	\$55, \$22 trainee	Z
Kansas	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25	Biennial
Kentucky	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25	Annual
Louisiana	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	Yes	\$100	Annual
Maine	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25	Annual
Maryland	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$45	Biennial G
Massachusetts	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$60	Biennial G
Michigan	Pharmacy Personnel	No	No	No	—	—
Minnesota	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$30	Annual
Mississippi	Pharmacy Technician L	No	Yes	No	\$50	Annual
Missouri	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$35 W	Annual
Montana	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	Yes AA	\$60 initial; \$50 renewal	Annual
Nebraska	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25	Biennial RR
Nevada	Pharmaceutical Technician L	No	Yes	No	\$40	Biennial
New Hampshire	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25	Annual - 4/01
New Jersey	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$70	N/A
New Mexico	Pharmacy Technician N	No	Yes	No	\$30	Biennial
New York	Unlicensed Person	No	No	No LL	N/A	N/A
North Carolina	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$30	Annual
North Dakota	Registered Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$35	Annual
Ohio	Qualified Pharmacy Technician	No	No	No	N/A	N/A
Oklahoma	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes O	No	\$40	GG
Oregon	Pharmacy Technician	Yes A	No	No	\$50 VV	1 year - Sep
Pennsylvania	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	No	N/A	N/A
Puerto Rico	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	Yes	\$50	3 years
Rhode Island	Pharmacy Technician	Yes	—	No	\$40	Annual
South Carolina	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	Yes	\$40 initial; \$15 renewal	Annual
South Dakota	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25	Annual
Tennessee	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$50 biennial	Cyclical
Texas	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$83 initial; \$80 renewal	Biennial
Utah	Pharmacy Technician	Yes	No	No	\$60 TT	Biennial
Vermont	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$50	Biennial
Virginia	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25	Annual
Washington	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	Yes	\$50 initial; \$40 renewal	Annual
West Virginia	Pharmacy Technician	No	Yes	No	\$25 X	Biennial
Wisconsin	Pharmacy Technician	No	No	No	—	—
Wyoming	Registered Pharmacy Technician K	Yes KK	Yes KK	No	\$50	Annual

* See "Footnotes (*)" on pages 39.

** Contact the state board of pharmacy office to obtain requirements.

Colored text denotes change from 2011 edition.

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13. Status of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

State	Technician Training Requirements	Technician CPE Requirements	Technician Examination Requirement	Can Board Deny, Revoke Suspend, or Restrict Technician Registration?	Maximum Ratio of Technician(s) to Pharmacist in an:	
					Ambulatory Care Setting	Institutional Care Setting
Alabama	No	3 hrs/yr MM	—	Yes	3:1*	3:1*
Alaska	Yes S	10 hrs/2 yrs	No	Yes	None	None
Arizona	Yes	NN	Yes FF	Yes	None	None
Arkansas	No	None	No	Yes	2:1	2:1
California	Yes CC	No	No CC	Yes	Varies*	2:1
Colorado	No	N/A	No	N/A	3:1	3:1
Connecticut	Yes S	No	No	Yes	2:1* or 3:1	3:1*
Delaware	Yes	N/A	No	N/A	None	None
District of Columbia	No J	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	Yes Q	20 hrs/2 years	No	Yes	3:1*	3:1*
Georgia	No	None	No	N/A	3:1*	3:1*
Guam	No J	None J	No	Yes	None J	None J
Hawaii	No	No	No	No	None	None
Idaho	Yes OO	Yes	Yes	Yes	6:1*	6:1*
Illinois	Yes PP	No	Yes QQ	Yes	None	None
Indiana	Yes	No	No U	Yes	4:1*	4:1*
Iowa	Yes H	No	No	Yes	None	None
Kansas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	2:1 or 3:1*	2:1 or 3:1*
Kentucky	No	None	No	Yes	None	None
Louisiana	Yes	10 hrs	Yes	Yes	3:1*	3:1*
Maine	Yes	No	No	Yes	3:1*	3:1*
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	None
Massachusetts	Yes	No BB	Yes	Yes	4:1*	4:1*
Michigan	No	—	—	—	None	None
Minnesota	No	No	No	Yes	2:1*	2:1*
Mississippi	No I	No	No	Yes	2:1	2:1
Missouri	No	None	No	Yes	None*	None*
Montana	Yes** T	Yes SS	Yes AA	Yes	3:1*	3:1*
Nebraska	Yes** I	No	No	Yes	2:1	2:1
Nevada	Yes	Yes Y	No	Yes	3:1*	3:1
New Hampshire	No	None	No	Yes	None	None
New Jersey	No	No	No	Yes	Varies	Varies
New Mexico	Yes**	None	Yes AA	Yes	4:1	4:1
New York	No	No	No	No	2:1	2:1
North Carolina	Yes	None	No	Yes	2:1*	2:1*
North Dakota	Yes R	Yes 10 hrs/1 yr	Yes †	Yes	3:1	4:1
Ohio	Yes	No	Yes	No	None	None
Oklahoma	Yes	None	No	Yes JJ	2:1	2:1
Oregon	Yes	Yes P	Yes P	Yes	None	None
Pennsylvania	No	None	No	N/A	None	None
Puerto Rico	Yes F	20 hrs/3 yrs	Yes	Yes	5:1	5:1
Rhode Island	Yes	No BB	—	Yes	None	None
South Carolina	Yes DD	10 hrs/yr EE	Yes DD	Yes	3:1*	Varies*
South Dakota	Yes S	None	No	Yes	2:1*	2:1*
Tennessee	No	None	No	Yes	2:1*	2:1*
Texas	Yes C	D	Yes	Yes	2:1*	None
Utah	Yes	20 hrs/2 yrs	Yes E	Yes	*	*
Vermont	No	No	No	Yes	None	None
Virginia	Yes V	5 hrs/yr	Yes V	Yes	4:1	4:1
Washington	Yes	None XX	Yes AA	Yes	3:1*	3:1*
West Virginia	Yes I	None	Yes	Yes	4:1	4:1
Wisconsin	No	—	—	—	4:1	4:1
Wyoming	Yes	6 hrs	Yes AA	Yes	3:1	3:1

* See "Footnotes (*)" on pages 39.

** Contact the state board of pharmacy office to obtain requirements.

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† Other comments noted in 2011 edition no longer apply.

13. Status of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

LEGEND

- A — All new pharmacy technicians have one year after initial licensure to obtain national certification.
- B — Technician trainee – \$36, Certified technician – \$72
- C — A person may be a technician trainee for no more than two years while seeking certification through PTCB. Contact the Board for specific on-site training requirements.
- D — Same as PTCB requirements.
- E — PTCB examination or the ExCPT and Utah law examination.
- F — 1,000 hours of internship under direct supervision of a registered pharmacist and passing an examination prepared by the Board are required for certification. Designated pharmacy technician intern for three years maximum.
- G — Biennial at birthday.
- H — Technicians must be under the immediate and personal supervision of the pharmacist. Technician training must be documented and maintained. National certification of all technicians by nationally accredited certifying body required by December 31, 2013.
- I — Training requirements developed by training pharmacies and approved by the Board.
- J — The Board is proposing/developing regulations. (DC – Legislation moved forward to DC City Council for consideration. A subsequent vote is forthcoming. See legislation #: B19-0293; Short Title: “Pharmacy Technician Amendment Act of 2011.”)
- K — Designated as a “technician-in-training” prior to meeting requirements for licensure. (IN – Technician-in-training permit is good for one year from date of issuance and must be upgraded to certified pharmacy technician by submitting proof of completion of approved training.)
- L — The term “Support Personnel” is also used.
- M — May register as “technician-in-training” for one year until they obtain certification. This registration is renewable once for one year.
- N — A “Pharmacy Technician” is a subset of “Supportive Personnel.”
- O — Technicians are not considered “registered” but are issued a “permit.”
- P — Required for certified pharmacy technicians but not pharmacy technicians.
- Q — Pharmacy technicians may register in Florida if they receive 1,500 hours of work experience, complete a training program, or if they are certified by the national board.
- R — Technicians must complete ASHP-accredited program.
- S — On-the-job training by PIC appropriate to technician’s duties.
- T — Technician utilization plan filed with Board or didactic course.
- U — Passage of the PTCB examination is one way to become certified as a technician in this state. Must also file application for licensure.
- V — To be eligible for registration a pharmacy technician must either hold current PTCB certification or must have passed a training program and examination approved by the Board.
- W — Plus a fingerprint fee paid to a contracted agency.
- X — \$25 initial; \$30 renewal/2 years.
- Y — However, technicians must complete six hours of in-service training per year and one hour of jurisprudence as do pharmacists (NV – See page 32).
- Z — Biennial by birth month; trainee registration 1 year, not reusable.
- AA — PTCB or ExCPT certification required.
- BB — However, “certified pharmacy technicians” must maintain certification.
- CC — Educational training and/or PTCB examination are ways to qualify for technician registration.
- DD — To be certified as a pharmacy technician an individual must have worked for 1,000 hours under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist as a technician and must have completed a Board of Pharmacy-approved technician course as provided for in subsection (D); a high school diploma or equivalent; and passed the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination or a Board of Pharmacy-approved examination and has maintained current certification; and fulfilled CE requirements as provided for in Section 40-43-130(G).
- EE — As a condition of registration renewal, a registered pharmacy technician shall complete 10 hours of ACPE- or CME I-approved CE each year. A minimum of four hours of the total hours must be obtained through attendance at lectures, seminars, or workshops.
- FF — Requires PTCB examination.
- GG — Annual (by birth month).
- HH — Plus one-time application fee of \$50.
- II — Odd numbered years.
- JJ — Revoked 31 pharmacy technician permits.
- KK — “Technicians-in-Training” are registered until they meet the requirements for licensure. The technician-in-training permit is valid for no more than two years from date of issue.
- LL — Legislation has been introduced to certify technicians.
- MM — One hour must be live CE.
- NN — Twenty hours of which two hours must be pharmacy law ACPE or Board-approved providers.
- OO — See IDAPA 27.01.01. 251(C).

Legend continued on page 40

13. Status of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

LEGEND — cont.

- PP — Refer to 225 ILCS 85/17.1 and 68 IAC Section 1330.210 and 1330.220 Illinois Administrative Code.
- QQ — Beginning on January 1, 2010, within two years of becoming employed as a registered technician, must become certified by successfully passing PTCB or other Board-approved examination. Does not apply to pharmacy technicians hired prior to January 1, 2008. Refer to 225 ILCS 85/9.
- RR — Biennial January 1 of odd years.
- SS — Must be PTCB-approved or ICPT-approved.
- TT — Additional \$40 for criminal background check.
- UU — Application fees are reevaluated June of even-numbered years.
- VV — Plus \$52 fingerprinting fee.
- WW — Indiana State Police collect an additional fee for a background check.
- XX — New law pending.

- FL — A licensed pharmacist may not supervise more than one registered pharmacy technician unless otherwise permitted by the guidelines adopted by the board. The board shall establish guidelines to be followed by licensees or permittees in determining the circumstances under which a licensed pharmacist may supervise more than one but not more than three pharmacy technicians.
- GA — One of the three pharmacy technicians must be certified. Board may consider and approve an application to increase the ratio in a hospital pharmacy.
- ID — Ratio includes technicians, technicians-in-training, and student pharmacists. No longer allowed cashiers/clerks in pharmacy.
- IN — Technicians must be under the immediate and personal supervision of the pharmacist.
- KS — The ratio may be 3:1 if at least two of the pharmacy technicians have a current certification issued by PTCB or a current certification issued by any other pharmacy technician certification organization approved by the Board.
- LA — If pharmacy technician candidate is present, then maximum ratio for technicians is 2:1. If not, then maximum ratio for technicians is 3:1.
- MA — 3:1 provided one intern and one certified technician. 4:1 provided at least two certified technicians or one certified technician and one intern.
- ME — 4:1 with an advanced pharmacy technician.
- MN — Specific functions are exempted from the 2:1 ratio as follows: for intravenous admixture preparation, unit-dose dispensing, prepackaging, and bulk compounding, ratio is 3:1. One additional technician per pharmacy if that technician is certified.
- MO — Technician must be under the direct supervision and responsibility of a pharmacist.
- MT — Ratio is 3:1. Licensee may ask Board for variance based on established criteria or greater upon Board approval.
- NC — Ratio may be increased above 2:1 if additional technicians are certified and the Board approves the increase in advance.

Footnotes*

- AL — 3:1 if one technician is PTCB-certified. All technicians must be at least 17.
- CA — In community pharmacy, the ratio is 1:1 for the first pharmacist on duty, then 2:1 for each additional pharmacist on duty. 2:1 if pharmacy services patients of skilled nursing facilities or hospices. A pharmacist may also supervise one pharmacy technician trainee gaining required practical experience.
- CT — Refer to Section 20-576-36 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. In summary, ratio not to exceed 2:1 when both technicians are registered. Ratio of 3:1 permitted when there are two registered technicians and one certified technician. However, a pharmacist is permitted to refuse the 3:1 ratio for the 2:1 ratio. In an institutional outpatient pharmacy, ratio is 2:1. The pharmacist manager may petition the Commission to increase ratio to 3:1 in a licensed or institutional outpatient pharmacy. Inpatient pharmacy ratio is 3:1 generally, but pharmacy can petition for ratio of up to 5:1; satellite pharmacy 3:1, but can petition for up to 5:1.

Footnotes continued on page 41

NABPLAW Online Search Terms

Status of Pharmacy Technicians (type as indicated below)

- ◆ technician & registration
- ◆ technician & requirements
- ◆ technician & training

Note: "ancillary personnel", "non-licensed personnel", and "support personnel" can be substituted for "technician."

13. Status of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

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Footnotes (*) – cont.

- NV — Technician to pharmacist ratio is now 3:1; however, initial prescription data input can now only be done by a registered pharmaceutical technician or a pharmacist. A clerk may enter demographic and insurance data only on new prescriptions.
- SC — The PIC shall develop and implement written policies and procedures to specify the duties to be performed by pharmacy technicians. The duties and responsibilities of these personnel shall be consistent with their training and experience. These policies and procedures shall, at a minimum, specify that pharmacy technicians are to be personally supervised by a licensed pharmacist who has the ability to control and who is responsible for the activities of pharmacy technicians and that pharmacy technicians are not assigned duties that may be performed only by a licensed pharmacist. One pharmacist may not supervise more than three pharmacy technicians at a time; at least two of these three technicians must be state certified. If a pharmacist supervises only one or two pharmacy technicians, these technicians are not required to be state certified. Pharmacy technicians do not include personnel in the prescription area performing only clerical functions, including data entry up to the point of dispensing, as defined in Section 40-43-30(14).
- SD — Exception to the ratio may be allowed if the specific requirements listed in administrative rule are met. See ARSD 20:51:29:19.02 and 20:51:29:19.03.
- TN — 3:1 if technician is certified.
- TX — 3:1 if at least one of the technicians is not a pharmacy technician trainee.
- UT — Pharmacist determined for licensed pharmacy technicians, only one tech-in-training per supervising pharmacist.
- WA — A pharmacy may use more technicians than the prescribed 3:1 upon approval of the Board.