

Virginia Board of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Interns as Pharmacy Technicians Pharmacy Technician Ratio Documentation of Previous Practice

Pharmacy Interns

For the purpose of gaining practical experience to meet requirements for becoming a pharmacist, a registered pharmacy intern is by law allowed to perform tasks restricted to pharmacists provided they are directly monitored by a pharmacist. When a pharmacy intern is engaged in obtaining required practical experience hours, to be used either by the college of pharmacy or submitted to the Board on an affidavit, the pharmacy intern is not counted in the pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratio. For example, one pharmacist could be supervising a pharmacy intern for experience and up to four pharmacy technicians at the same time.

The Board has determined that properly registered pharmacy interns may also act as pharmacy technicians without being registered as such during times when they are not gaining practical experience. Pharmacy interns when acting as pharmacy technicians, shall be considered part of the pharmacist to technician ratio.

Pharmacy Technician Trainees

Pharmacy technician trainees performing technician tasks in a pharmacy, are considered to be acting as pharmacy technicians and as such, are included in the pharmacist to technician ratio.

Expanded Ratios for Remote Practice and Central Fill Pharmacies

18VAC110-20-112 permits a pharmacist to supervise pharmacy technicians at a ratio of 1:4. Emergency regulations in effect until December 15, 2026 create a new 18VAC110-20-276(G) which permits a pharmacist to supervise up to six pharmacy technicians or pharmacy interns, with a limit of four pharmacy technicians or pharmacy interns on site at the pharmacy location and up to two additional pharmacy technicians or pharmacy interns accessing the pharmacy's database remotely. While pharmacy technician trainees performing technician tasks in a pharmacy are considered to be acting as pharmacy technicians and are included in the pharmacist to technician ratio, 18VAC110-20-276(G) prohibits trainees from practicing remotely. Emergency regulations in effect until December 15, 2026 also create a new 18VAC110-20-277(D) which permits a pharmacist to supervise up to twelve pharmacy technicians, pharmacy technician trainees, and pharmacy interns at a central fill pharmacy location. Permanent regulations are under executive branch review as of the adoption of changes to this guidance document. If the final regulatory language remains identical to the existing emergency language, then these allowances for pharmacy to technician ratios for remote processing and central fill facilities will likely become effective permanently in December 2026.

Documentation of Previous Practice

Pursuant to 18VAC110-21-141, a pharmacy technician who has previously practiced in another United States jurisdiction may be eligible to obtain registration as a pharmacy technician upon documentation of previous practice and having passed a national certification examination administered by PTCB or NHA. Acceptable documentation of previous practice performing the duties of a pharmacy technician include:

- Verification of issuance of a pharmacy technician license or registration in another U.S. jurisdiction;
- Employer verification of practice on official office letterhead;
- W-2 with position title and employer's name; or
- Written statement from a pharmacist licensed in Virginia or another state that includes verifiable information, such as the pharmacist's license number, confirming the pharmacy technician's previous practice in another state.