



American Society of Health-System Pharmacists®
 7272 Wisconsin Ave.
 Bethesda, MD 20814
 301.657.3000
 www.ashp.org

The Pharmacy Technician Education TABLET

A Timely Dose of Information

Serving Pharmacy Technician Training Program Directors and Educators

Fall 2013

Published by the Accreditation Services Division

American Society of Health System Pharmacists

Volume 5, Number 1

In This Issue

- National Pharmacy Technician Day
- Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission Established
- New ASHP Accreditation Standard for Pharmacy Technician Training
- PharmacyTechCE.org
- ASHP Pharmacy Technician Textbook Resources
- ASHP Pharmacy Technician Information Center
- PTCB News
- Value of Accreditation Video Links
- 2013 COC news
- 2013 MCM Educator & Technician Programming

Contact Us

ASD@ASHP.org
 301-664-8700

Pharmacy Technicians:

Our Indispensable Assets

Please join us in warmly thanking the thousands of pharmacy technicians who work tirelessly day in and day out to help pharmacists in all work settings help patients make the best use of their medications throughout the United States.

CELEBRATE the 23rd ANNUAL



NATIONAL PHARMACY TECHNICIAN DAY
 October 22, 2013

News You Can Use

New Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC)

ASHP-ACPE Collaboration Will Advance Quality of Technician Education, Training

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) are pleased to announce their collaboration to accredit pharmacy technician education and training programs, beginning in late 2014. The collaboration will result in the creation of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC), which will be tasked with assuring and advancing the quality of pharmacy technician education and training programs.

The PTAC will conduct document reviews and site surveys and advise the ASHP and ACPE boards of directors, which will then agree on final accreditation actions. The establishment of the PTAC expands upon ASHP's 31-year history as the national accrediting body for pharmacy technician training programs and incorporates ACPE's expertise in the accreditation of educational programs.

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/Pharmacy-Technicians/PTAC-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

New ASHP Accreditation Standard for Pharmacy Technician Training Programs: Implementation Timeline Information

The new *ASHP Accreditation Standard for Pharmacy Technician Training Programs* is now available on the ASHP website:

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/Regulations-Standards/Pharmacy-Technician-Education-and-Training-Programs.pdf>

The new Standard was developed by the ASHP Commission on Credentialing in conjunction with the Pharmacy Technician Advisory Group and was approved by the ASHP Board of Directors on April 12, 2013.

This version supersedes the *ASHP Accreditation Standard for Pharmacy Technician Programs*, approved September 27, 2002.

For existing programs, this revision of the accreditation standard takes effect January 15, 2015. Until that time the current Standard, which was approved September 27, 2002, remains in effect. Existing programs are free to convert to the new Standard any time after January 1, 2014.

Any new programs starting after January 1, 2014 must begin by using the new Standard.

A new *Guidance Document* is also posted. The *Guidance Document* is not the Standard but gives additional explanations and it provides examples of evidence that programs can use to show compliance with the Standards. Access it here:

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/Guidance-Document.pdf>

The new *Model Curriculum, 3rd Edition*, includes examples of activities that may be used to help students progress on the associated objectives. Here is the

link: <http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/Model-Curriculum.pdf>

The new *ASHP Regulations on Accreditation of Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs* are also available and should be reviewed.

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/Regulations-on-Accreditation-of-Pharmacy-Technician-Education.pdf>

The Accreditation Services Division has posted a set of presentation slides, *New ASHP Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Technician Training Programs: What You Need To Know*, to the website:

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/Pharmacy-Technicians/NewStdforPharmTechEduProgs.pdf>

Questions regarding the new Standard can be emailed to ASD@ashp.org

ASHP Launches PharmacyTechCE.org for Pharmacy Technician Continuing Education

PharmacyTechCE.org is ASHP's new subscription-based continuing education service for pharmacy technicians. PharmacyTechCE.org is designed to meet the unique educational needs of pharmacy technicians in all practice settings. The site currently offers twenty hours of technician-designated continuing pharmacy education (CPE), allowing subscribers to fulfill their CE and recertification requirements through one convenient,

cost-effective subscription. The portal features a wide variety of timely topics, including pharmacy automation, sterile compounding, medication and patient safety, pharmacy operations, pharmacy law, and quality improvement.

Subscriptions to PharmacyTechCE.org are available to both employers investing in these critical members of the pharmacy team, as well as to individual pharmacy technicians seeking high-quality technician-designated education. Subscribers can select from a variety of learning formats including podcast, CE monograph, and on-demand formats. Activities are also mobile friendly and can be viewed from iPads or Smartphones. Live monthly CE webinars will also be scheduled.

<http://www.pharmacytechce.org/>

Workbook Now Available for Technicians' Pharmacology Textbook

The companion ASHP's *Workbook for Understanding Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians* has more than 1,200 exercises that students and pharmacy technicians can use for self-assessment or instructors can use in classroom activities. The book *Understanding Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians* was written to meet ASHP accreditation standards and therefore is one of the most comprehensive books on the market related to pharmacology for technicians. Fresh off the press, the workbook is available for purchase by itself or as a package with *Understanding Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians*.

For more information about the workbook, visit www.ashp.org/techworkbook

For more information about the book, visit www.ashp.org/techpharmacology

For more information about the package: www.ashp.org/pharmacologypackage



Finally, a user-friendly calculations textbook for technicians.

ASHP's *Pharmacy Calculations: An Introduction for Pharmacy Technicians*, provides students with the pharmacy basics necessary for correctly interpreting prescriptions and drug orders, and performing dosing calculations that technicians face every day. Using step-by-step examples ranging from simple to complex, this new important resource leads pharmacy technicians through situations where fast, accurate calculations are vital.

For more information and to order, visit www.ashp.org/techcalculations

For bulk discount pricing and other inquiries, contact Carlye Miller, cmiller@ashp.org

ASHP Pharmacy Technician Information Center

ASHP has a resource center available to all pharmacy technician training programs on the website and suggests that all programs consider linking this information to your marketing material for individuals seeking to learn more about becoming a pharmacy technician:

<http://www.pharmtechinfocenter.com/index.html>

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board News:

PTCB Announces Certification Program Changes (2/13)

By 2020, PTCB will require candidates for initial PTCB certification to successfully complete an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)-accredited education program. ASHP-accredited programs include didactic course work and practical experience, thereby providing well-rounded training for technicians.

<http://ptcb.org/docs/about-ptcb/ptcb-certification-program-changes.pdf>

PTCB To Introduce Updated Certification Exam on November 1 (8/13)

The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) will introduce its updated Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) on November 1. The updated exam measures the knowledge pharmacy technicians need to effectively support pharmacists and advance patient safety in today's pharmacies. Candidates who apply for PTCB certification before November 1 will be given the current PTCE, and those who apply on or after November 1 will take [the updated exam](#).

<http://www.ptcb.org/about-ptcb/news-room/news-landing/2013/08/27/updatedPTCErelease>

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Grants More Than Half a Million Certifications (10/13)

The total number of certifications granted by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) recently eclipsed half a million, totaling 503,620 as of June 30, 2013. In 2012 alone, 39,729 candidates passed the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE).

<http://www.ptcb.org/about-ptcb/news-room/press-releases>

The Value of Accreditation

Informing the public about the value of accreditation has never been more important. Four short videos on accreditation are currently available from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Colleges, universities, accrediting organizations and other higher education associations can provide user-friendly information on accreditation to the public by linking to one or more of these videos with your marketing material.

[Accreditation and Its Value to You](#)

[Types of Accreditation: What's the Difference?](#)

[Degree Mills and Accreditation Mills](#)

[The Council for Higher Education Accreditation](#)

Commission on Credentialing News

Forty-eight (48) programs received initial accreditation and seventeen (17) programs were reaccredited in 2013.

As of this past August Commission on Credentialing meeting, there were **258** technician training programs in the accreditation process!

Congratulations to all of these programs, their program directors, and students!

Update Your Online Directory Listing:

Send any corrections or new information about your program to Accreditation Services Division: asd@ashp.org. If you have an organizational website that you would like to link from the directory, send it to us as well. The online directory is a widely searched tool used by potential students.



Orange County Convention Center, West

Orlando, Florida

48th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition

Accreditation Services Update: Educator Related Programming

Sunday, December 8, 2013

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **New and Prospective Technician Training Programs
Directors and Instructors Meeting
Orange County Convention Center, W208A, Level 2**

Attending this session is one of the first steps for those contemplating the submission of an application for accreditation or who have very recently submitted an application and have never been through an accreditation site survey. The “nuts-and-bolts” questions asked by program directors and instructors about recently established or newly developing programs will be discussed. Time permitting, other topics may include a review of the critical aspects of accreditation and commentary on specific elements of the accreditation standards. Come and learn the essentials for getting your pharmacy technician training program off to a good start!

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm **It's Here! New Pharmacy Technician Training Standard Overview
Orange County Convention Center, W208A, Level 2**

A perfect forum for pharmacy technician training program directors and instructors to learn about hot issues that are happening in pharmacy technician training program accreditation. This year's topic is sizzling! The newly revised “**Accreditation Standard for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs**” has been approved and will become effective officially on January 1, 2014. All programs must comply with this Standard by January 15, 2015 for accreditation. Come to the session with questions for the ASHP Accreditation Services staff regarding the new Standard.

Updates on the new *Model Curriculum for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training* and other essential tools will be presented as well. A must attend for all ASHP-accredited pharmacy technician training program directors and those seeking accreditation.

Continuing Education for Pharmacy Technicians Available at MCM

If you're a pharmacy technician, this is your opportunity to develop your potential while networking with colleagues at the world's largest gathering of pharmacy professionals. ASHP is committed to helping you fulfill your increasingly demanding role in the pharmacy department, and providing more content relevant to your needs and goals than ever before. Although all education sessions are open for you to attend, you'll want to pay special attention to sessions and activities of particular interest: the ones marked with a "T" at the end of the ACPE Activity Number. Room locations will be published in the onsite directory.

For a full listing of programs available under the specific category of continuing education geared towards pharmacy technicians and/or topics of interest, visit this link to our MCM 2013 website:

<http://connect.ashp.org/MCM13/GeneralInfo/InformationFor/PharmacyTechnicians>

To Register for the 2013 MidYear Clinical Meeting

<http://connect.ashp.org/MCM13/RegistrationTravel/MeetingRegistration>

SEE YOU AT THE MIDYEAR!