

Pharmacy Calculations: An Introduction for Pharmacy Technicians

By Joy Bellis Sakai

[REVIEWER'S EXPERT OPINION]

Rahmat M Talukder, PhD (Pharmaceu, BS in Pharmacy (West Coast University School of Pharmacy))

Description

This book reviews the basic mathematical concepts and skills that are critical for pharmacy technicians to know in order perform various types of calculations. Relevant topics are presented in 14 chapters, which are grouped into four units.

Purpose

Pharmacy technicians are in demand and many states require that pharmacy technicians be certified. Thus, a book that covers fundamental concepts in pharmaceutical calculations is helpful.

Audience

Pharmacy technicians will find this book easy to follow. The authors have been training pharmacy technicians for many years.

Features

The first unit reviews fundamental mathematical principles; the second presents the systems of measurement; and the third covers various topics, including common pharmacy abbreviations, interpretation and parts of a prescription, how to verify prescriber's DEA number, among others. The last unit on dose calculations offers a good discussion of the calculation of doses based on body weight and body surface area. Pharmacy technicians also will find the chapter on injectable drugs very useful. Each chapter begins with learning objectives, key points are highlighted in "Tech Notes," and the book includes a helpful glossary of common terms, and some examples and review questions. However, additional discussion, examples, and review questions on every topic would have been even more helpful for technicians. In fact, each page has a couple of inches of blank space that could have been used to provide more examples.

Assessment

Overall, the depth of discussion in this book is appropriate for the audience, and pharmacy technician students will benefit from it.

Weighted Numerical Score: 76 - 3 Stars