

Workbook *for*

Understanding Pharmacology *for* Pharmacy Technicians

Mary Ann Stuhan, PharmD, RPh

Pharmacy Program Manager
Cuyahoga Community College
Cleveland, Ohio

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists®
Bethesda, Maryland

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Preface

Pharmacology, an important area of study for everyone who handles medications in a healthcare setting, is especially critical for members of the pharmacy staff. Although *Understanding Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians* compiles vital pharmacology information, learning the drugs, their actions, and the terminology associated with the disease states being treated can seem like an overwhelming task. The *Workbook for Understanding Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians* has been designed to guide and assist students and pharmacy technicians toward a mastery of the knowledge and skills presented in the text.

Chapters in the *Workbook* are aligned with those in the text so that students and instructors can use it as a companion. Key concepts and pronunciations, along with the names, indications, and routes of administration of the medications covered in each chapter are emphasized in a variety of exercises including matching, true or false, and short answer questions. The range of exercises allows for use of the workbook to reinforce material presented in briefer, “overview” courses included in short-term curricula as well as its application to the more detailed learning required in lengthier, degree-granting programs. Students can use the workbook as a study guide for each chapter, and instructors can employ it as a resource for assignments and class exercises. Most workbook chapters include a drug monograph form, along with suggestions for the kinds of medications for which it might be useful in pharmacy practice situations. This drug monograph exercise affords students the chance and the method to study a medication in more detail, and learn how it compares to other therapies while giving them the opportunity to truly understand the pharmacology for a particular treatment area. It provides a way for instructors to demonstrate the application of pharmacology knowledge to development of a tool for making purchasing and formulary decisions.

Keeping in mind that ASHP’s **Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI)** includes advanced roles for pharmacy technicians with appropriate education, many students and instructors will wish to cover the material in greater depth. Toward this end, they can make use of the “additional study” suggestions, as well as rising to the challenge of using resources beyond the textbook to complete all parts of the drug monograph exercise.

At every level of educational plan, the *Understanding Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians* textbook and workbook package has been aimed at the meeting the goals of the **ASHP Accreditation Standard** and related knowledge areas (including medication safety, inventory management, and pharmacy law) of the **Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)** examination. I hope that it will become a valuable resource in the education of twenty-first century pharmacy technicians.

Mary Ann Stuhan

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