**CERTIFICATION**

**ASHP/ACPE-Accredited Pharmacy Technician Education Program**

Beginning in 2020, PTCB will require initial candidates for certification to complete a pharmacy technician education program accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)/Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

Leaders in the profession have demonstrated a desire for pharmacy technicians to follow the same credentialing model as pharmacists by becoming certified and registered with the state. Pharmacists are required to graduate from an accredited pharmacy school before they sit for the NAPLEX board exam and become licensed by their state Board of Pharmacy.

The number of ASHP/ACPE-accredited pharmacy technician education programs is growing. ASHP/ACPE-accredited programs include practical experience in addition to didactic course work, thereby providing well-rounded training for technicians. Many large employers have also developed their own training programs with ASHP/ACPE-accreditation in mind.

In a March 2012 survey, 78% of respondents agreed that 2020 is a reasonable year by which to implement required accredited education.

This requirement will affect new individuals applying for national certification following the implementation date. It will not affect already certified pharmacy technicians applying for PTCB recertification.

**RECERTIFICATION**

**Patient Safety CE**

As part of the 20 hours of CE currently required for PTCB recertification, CPhTs must complete one CE hour of patient safety, in addition to the one hour of law CE required. This requirement took effect in 2014.

Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists with duties that impact patient care and safety. It is important that technicians continue to be educated on how their routine responsibilities shape the medication distribution system. By learning to identify potential errors in the system and how to report these, pharmacy technicians can affect the medication safety culture within pharmacies.

PTCB:
- Encourages pharmacy associations and other national CE providers to create patient safety CE programs specifically for pharmacy technicians.
- Highlights new patient safety CE programs on ptcb.org.
RECERTIFICATION
(continued from side one)

Pharmacy Technician-Specific CE

PTCB requires CE hours completed on or after January 1, 2015 to be in pharmacy technician-specific subject matter to count toward recertification.

Pharmacy technicians need to be educated through programs that specifically address their responsibilities and knowledge requirements in the workplace.

This new CE requirement will not apply to CE hours completed on or before December 31, 2014. PTCB will not accept CE hours completed in 2015 or later that are not pharmacy technician-specific. PTCB has determined that CE programs offered by Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited providers, and designated for target audience ‘T’ (pharmacy technician), satisfy the requirement of pertaining to pharmacy technician-specific subject matter.

Note that an ACPE-accredited CE course sometimes is intended for both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The two courses have identical Universal Activity Numbers but different last digits—either ‘T’ or ‘P’ (pharmacist)—to indicate the audience.

Non-ACPE-accredited CE programs are accepted if PTCB determines that a program’s objectives assess or sustain the competency critical to pharmacy technician practice as stated in PTCB’s Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination Blueprint, found on ptcb.org.

PTCB:
• Works with CE providers to encourage the creation of pharmacy technician-specific objectives for CE programs.
• Continues to feature CE programs for pharmacy technicians on ptcb.org.

Acceptable CE: College Courses

PTCB will reduce the number of CE hours that can be earned via college/university coursework from 15 to 10 beginning in 2016.

Due to the importance of pharmacy technicians completing technician-focused CE, leaders from the pharmacy profession encourage greater emphasis on attaining technician-specific knowledge, with less allowance for broad academic courses.

Acceptable CE: In-Service Courses

PTCB lowered the allowable number of CE hours to be earned through in-services from 10 to 5 beginning in 2015. This will be further reduced from 5 to 0 starting in 2018.

It is important that pharmacy technicians be educated through quality, standardized CE programs. In-service CEs will be phased out to eliminate inconsistencies.

PTCB:
• Works with employers to standardize the information being provided through in-service CE.
• Informs CPhTs about new eligibility requirements for recertification and reinstatement prior to their certification expiration dates.