Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam® (PTCE®) Content Outline
Effective January 2026

1	Medications	35%
1.1	Generic names, brand names, and classifications of medications	
1.2	Therapeutic duplications	
1.3	Common or life-threatening drug interactions and contraindications (e.g., drug-drug, drug-dietary supplement, drug-laboratory, drug-nutrient, drug-disease)	
1.4*	Strengths/doses, dosage forms, routes of administration, special handling and administration instructions, and duration of drug therapy	
1.5	Common or severe medication side effects, adverse effects, and allergies	
1.6	Indications of medications	
1.7*	Drug stability (e.g., oral suspensions, insulins, reconstitutables, injectables, vaccinations)	
1.8	Proper storage of medications (e.g., temperature ranges, light sensitivity, restricted access)	
2	**Federal Requirements**	**18.75%**
2.1	Federal requirements for storage, handling, and disposal of non-hazardous, hazardous (e.g., P-list), and pharmacological substances and wastes	
2.2*	Federal requirements for controlled substance prescriptions (i.e., new, refill, transfer) and DEA controlled substance schedules	
2.3	Federal requirements for receiving, storing, ordering, labeling, dispensing, returning, take-back programs for, loss or theft of, and destroying controlled substances	
2.4*	Federal restricted drug programs and related medication-processing requirements (e.g., pseudoephedrine, Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies [REMS])	
2.5	FDA requirements for medication recalls	
2.6	FDA product serialization, tracking, tracing, handling, and quarantining requirements (i.e., Drug Supply Chain Security Act [DSCSA])	

3	Patient Safety and Quality Assurance	23.75%
3.1	High-alert/risk medications and look-alike/sound-alike (LASA) medications	
3.2	Error prevention strategies (e.g., prescription or medication order to correct patient, Tall Man lettering, separating inventory, leading and trailing zeros, bar code usage, limit use of error-prone abbreviations)	
3.3*	Issues that require pharmacist intervention (e.g., drug utilization review [DUR], adverse drug event [ADE], OTC recommendation, therapeutic substitution, misuse, adherence, post-immunization delivery care, allergies, drug interactions)	
3.4	Event reporting procedures (e.g., medication errors, adverse effects, product integrity, MedWatch, VAERS, near miss, root-cause analysis [RCA], continuous quality improvement [CQI])	
3.5*	Types of prescription errors (e.g., incorrect dose, quantity, patient, drug, route of administration)	
3.6	Infection prevention procedures and cleaning standards (e.g., handwashing, personal protective equipment [PPE], cleaning counting trays, countertops, and equipment)	
4	**Order Entry and Processing**	**22.5%**
4.1*	Formulas, calculations, ratios, proportions, conversions, Sig codes (e.g., b.i.d., t.i.d., Roman numerals), abbreviations, medical terminology, and symbols for days supply, quantity, dose, concentration, dilutions	
4.2*	Equipment and supplies required for drug administration (e.g., diabetic supplies, inhaler spacers, oral syringes, injectable syringes, filters, dilution solutions, immunization supplies, nebulizers)	
4.3*	Lot numbers, expiration dates, and National Drug Code (NDC) numbers	
4.4	Procedures for identifying and returning dispensable, non-dispensable, and expired medications and supplies (e.g., credit return, return to stock, reverse distribution)	

** Some or all of this statement reflects calculation-based knowledge.*