



Position Statement

Pharmacy Technician Education, Training and Certification

Terminology:

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) supports the use of the term “pharmacy technician” only for those persons in a pharmacy practice setting who:

- are authorized by both state regulation and employment status to engage in one or more steps in the process of fulfillment of a prescription or medication order;
- have successfully completed an education and training program that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body; and
- are certified by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

Education & Training:

ACCP supports the accreditation process for pharmacy technician education and training programs administered by the Commission on Credentialing of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). Further, ACCP supports the collaboration established in 2014 between ASHP and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and their joint oversight of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) to promote, assure, and advance the quality of pharmacy technician education and training programs in the United States.

ACCP supports the use and ongoing refinement of a nationally recognized and standardized model curriculum for the education of pharmacy technician students that provides core knowledge, skills, and attitudes delivered through a process of both didactic instruction and practice-based learning experiences. Further, ACCP supports education and training programs that prepare students to achieve both entry-level and advanced-level knowledge, skills and abilities, so long as the program that prepares students for practice as advanced-level pharmacy technicians enables students to acquire additional knowledge, skills, and abilities beyond those of the entry-level pharmacy technician, as needed for such practice.

ACCP supports the active engagement of colleges and schools of pharmacy in the development, standardization, and validation of pharmacy technician education and training programs, including their active involvement in developing didactic and experiential team-based learning opportunities for student pharmacists and student pharmacy technicians. ACCP supports appropriate education and training of pharmacy technicians to fulfill job responsibilities through such mechanisms as formal coursework, certification, and internal training. Skills assessment and documented evidence of effectiveness should be considered when delegating higher tasks to the appropriately identified and trained pharmacy technician. Roles should be expanded only after appropriate training and certification are completed.

Certification:

ACCP supports the certification program of the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board and urges its adoption as a required component of the process of credentialing of pharmacy technicians by state and federal regulatory bodies.

Practice Activities:

ACCP supports changes in pharmacy practice regulations that would authorize a system by which pharmacy technicians may engage in a “technician-check-technician” process for prescription/medication order fulfillment. This process must be performed in an integrated fashion with the provision of clinical services, patient education, and patient and health care provider consultation activities by pharmacists that promote the effective and safe use of the medication being dispensed.

ACCP supports limiting persons who are authorized to be involved in the process of fulfillment of prescription or medication orders (or other appropriate medication-related patient care activities) to personnel who are pharmacists, student pharmacists engaged in introductory and advanced practice experiences of their professional degree program, pharmacy technicians, or student pharmacy technicians.

Appropriately educated and trained pharmacy technicians can support clinical pharmacy services in administrative duties. ACCP supports incorporation of pharmacy technicians prepared at the advanced level into appropriate patient care activities to expand reach and depth of clinical pharmacy services. Additionally, ACCP supports incorporating pharmacy technicians into ancillary processes that support clinical pharmacy services (e.g. contributions to accreditation activities and quality improvement processes).

Licensure and Registration:

ACCP supports the public health and safety role of state boards of pharmacy and encourages the implementation of enhanced, nationally uniform registration and/or licensure procedures for pharmacy technicians that are based on and consistent with the education, training, and certification principles outlined in this position statement.

**Adopted by the Board of Regents of the
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
July 18, 2018**