



PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION

MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

Advocating on behalf of Michigan's pharmacy professionals for quality patient care

KEY STATEMENT

Licensing pharmacy technicians keeps patients safe, ensures better care and helps decrease drug diversion.

BACKGROUND

Michigan is one of only seven states in the nation that does not have any baseline standard for pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy technicians play an integral role in the medication dispensing process, and currently in Michigan, they are not even required to have a high school diploma or receive any ongoing training. This is certainly disappointing, considering that Michigan is one of the first states to provide pharmacy technician training. Legislation has been introduced to amend the Michigan Public Health Code by formally recognizing pharmacy technicians and requiring licensure and certification; however, action has not been taken to date. MPA will continue to address this issue and work toward getting legislation enacted.



WHY IS PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION IMPORTANT?

- Currently there are no requirements in the state of Michigan to validate the minimal standards, knowledge or understanding of the individuals currently assisting pharmacists. **Licensure and certification of pharmacy technicians will ensure appropriate and consistent care and safety of patients served by pharmacies.**
- Pharmacy technicians play a sensitive and critical role in preparing medication orders and prescriptions; however, even if certification is present, **law still requires the accountability** of the supervising pharmacist, who is legally responsible by virtue of state licensure for the care and safety of patients served by the pharmacy.
- With the ever changing nature of medications and new advances in pharmacy, **continuing education is necessary for pharmacy technicians in order to keep patients safe.** Certification would require ongoing continuing education.
- Certification with a nationally approved, psychometrically evaluated exam (the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam) ensures validity and measurable statistics for pharmacy technicians consistent with nationally approved and recognized exams given to pharmacists. The examination is supported by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the same entity responsible for providing a national examination that provides assurance pharmacists applying to their respective board for licensure have the knowledge and skills necessary to safely practice entry-level pharmacy.
- **Pharmacy technicians have access to controlled substances.** The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has reported that most cases of diversion that occurs within a pharmacy can be attributed to unlicensed individuals. By licensing pharmacy technicians, it provides a more stringent disciplinary approach to inappropriate behavior, holding pharmacy technicians accountable.

BOTTOM LINE

Support pharmacy technician licensing and certification in order to safeguard the health of your constituents. Integral members of the pharmacy team must have minimum standards of education to ensure the best care possible for patients depending on medications to get well and maintain their health.

Additional Information

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact:

- Greg Baran, director of governmental affairs, at [517] 377-0224 or Greg@MichiganPharmacists.org
- Karen A. Jonas, director of professional practice, at [517] 377-0254 or KJonas@MichiganPharmacists.org



NEW SURVEY—THE VALUE OF PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION THROUGH THE EYES OF PHARMACISTS

The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) recently sponsored research to evaluate how pharmacists view the role that national pharmacy technician certification plays in the delivery of patient care. Specifically, the survey gauged how certification may directly affect pharmacy technicians' knowledge and skills in ambulatory, community, specialty care, and institutional practice settings; attitudes and professional competencies in the field; and pharmacy work environments. Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists in dispensing medications and are accountable to the supervising pharmacist who is legally responsible through state licensure for the care and safety of patients served by the pharmacy.

METHODOLOGY

Survey results represent the findings of a self-administered, mail questionnaire compiled from a random sample of over 3,250 pharmacists serving in a variety of practice settings across the United States. Survey results were measured at a return rate of 24.5 percent.

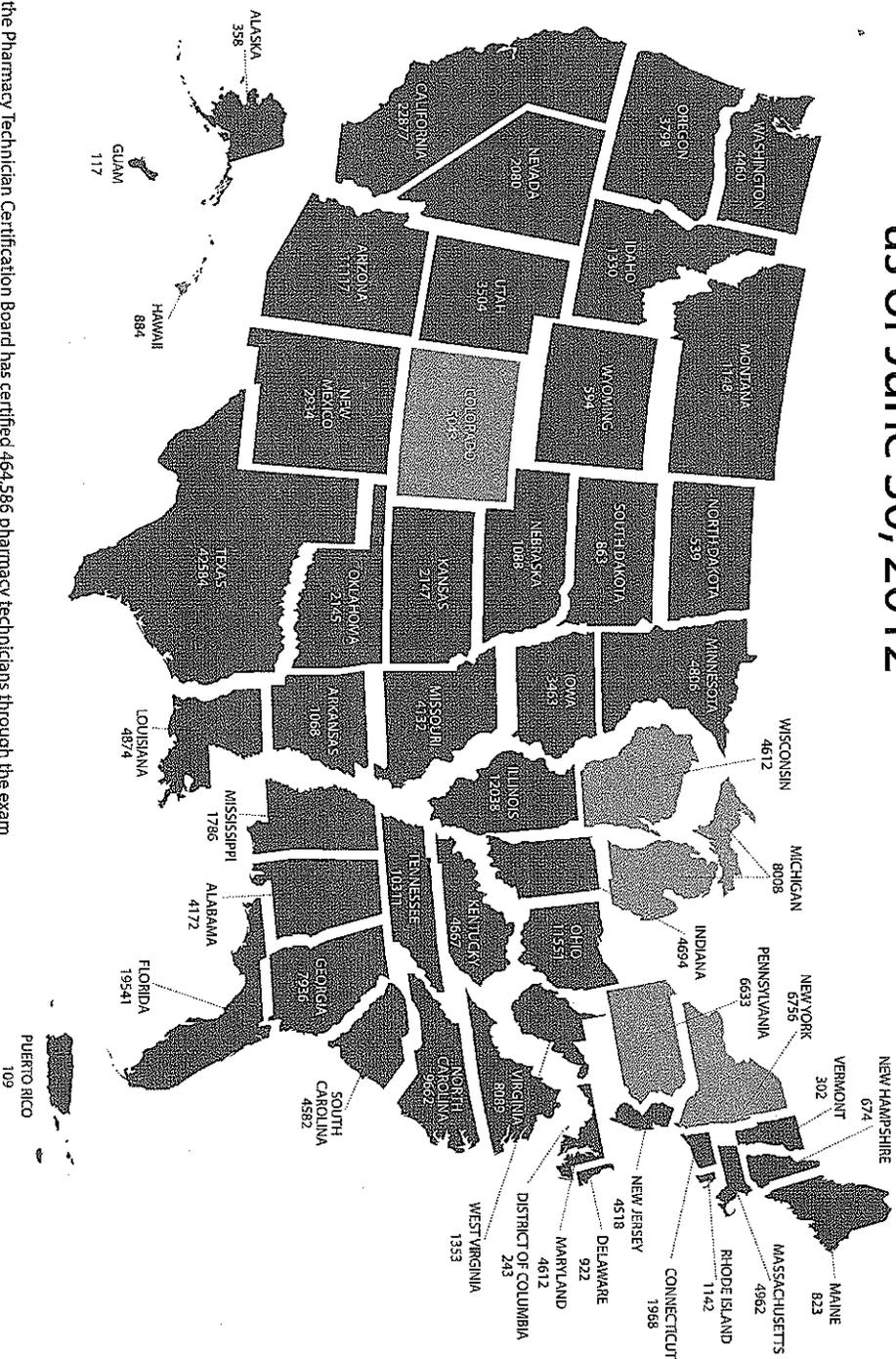
KEY FINDINGS

- **Pharmacy technician certification and reductions in medication errors**
Over 80 percent of pharmacists agree that pharmacy technician certification supports proper drug preparation and distribution, reduces the number of medication errors, and improves patient safety.
- **Pharmacy technician certification and increases in direct patient care**
Eighty-three percent of pharmacists agree that working with Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhTs) allows them to spend more time working directly with patients. As the population ages and medication regimens become more complex, patient-centered care will play an important role in facilitating safe medication practice.
- **Pharmacy technician certification and pharmacist job satisfaction**
Seventy-three percent of pharmacists agree that working with CPhTs gives them greater confidence in delegating tasks. Approximately 4 out of 5 pharmacists connect working with CPhTs to facilitating job satisfaction, mitigating job stress, and reducing dispensing errors.
- **Pharmacy technician certification and a qualified workforce**
A single standard for education, training, and certification is paramount to developing a qualified and appropriately credentialed workforce. Over 80 percent of pharmacists support the adoption of pharmacy technician training and certification standards by the state boards of pharmacy.
- **Pharmacy technician certification and positive patient experiences**
Certification directly impacts patient experiences and helps maintain the overall workflow of a pharmacy. Nearly 6 out of 7 pharmacists agree that working with CPhTs increases efficiency in pharmacy operations.
- **Pharmacy technician certification and the future of pharmacy**
Economic trends show that pharmacy technician positions are expected to increase by 25 percent by 2018. Ninety-three percent of pharmacists agree that the need for certification will increase as the pharmacy profession evolves.

CONCLUSION

Survey results show that pharmacists perceive pharmacy technician certification as an essential component in reducing medication errors, improving patient experiences, maintaining pharmacy workflows, and increasing positive health outcomes.

Active PTCB Certified Pharmacy Technicians as of June 30, 2012



KEY

- States that regulate pharmacy technicians
- States that do not regulate pharmacy technicians

Since 1995, the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board has certified 464,586 pharmacy technicians through the exam and transfer process. This map represents the 274,619 pharmacy technicians currently active.

*Source: 2012 National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Survey of Pharmacy Law and Independent research.

Regulatory Oversight of Pharmacy Technicians

44 regulate pharmacy technicians

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming

18 require national certification

Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

5 require and accept only the PTCB Exam in their states

Arizona, Louisiana, North Dakota, Texas, Wyoming

17 require a background check

Arkansas, California, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming

18 require continuing education

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming

5 have a pharmacy technician serving on their Board of Pharmacy

Alabama, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

However...

7 do not regulate pharmacy technicians

Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

10 have pending legislation or regulations

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

Updated: October 2012

*Contact Megan Coder for more detailed information at mcoder@ptcb.org.



Sub Search

Who We Serve

Certification

Recertification

Employer Verification

Resources

About PTCB

MYPTCB

Certification Number:

Password:

[Login](#) [Forgot Password?](#)

[Home](#) | [Resources](#) | [State Regulations](#)

[ShareThis](#)

Pharmacy Technician State Regulations

PTCB's certification process assists State Boards of Pharmacy in their mission to develop, implement, and enforce high quality standards to protect public safety. The Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam is administered in all 50 states and is included in regulations (i.e., registration, licensure, and certification processes) in 44 states (see chart below). Please consult your State Board of Pharmacy for complete and current pharmacy regulations and practice acts.

2011 NABP Survey of Pharmacy Law

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) annually conducts a survey of pharmacy law as a guide to highlight key requirements for states. Through its charts and explanations, the survey shows how the State Boards of Pharmacy are organized, how they function, and their requirements for licensure. The Survey also identifies states that license, register and certify pharmacy technicians and offers an overview of the laws that regulate the prescribing and dispensing of medications. For more information on this study and the model practice act, please visit the NABP.

Certification Chart

Below is a current list of states that require or accept PTCB certification.

State	Regulate Pharmacy Technicians	Certification Required	Accept Only PTCB Certification
Alabama	X		
Alaska	X		
Arizona	X	X	X
Arkansas	X		
California	X		
Colorado			
Connecticut	X		
Delaware	X		
DC			
Florida	X		
Georgia	X		
Hawaii			
Idaho	X	X	
Illinois	X	X	
Indiana	X		
Iowa	X	X	
Kansas	X		
Kentucky	X		
Louisiana	X	X	X
Maine	X		
Maryland	X	X	
Massachusetts	X	X	
Michigan			
Minnesota	X		
Mississippi	X	X	
Missouri	X		
Montana	X	X	
Nebraska	X		
Nevada	X		
New Hampshire	X		
New Jersey	X		
New Mexico	X	X	
New York			
North Carolina	X		
North Dakota	X		
Ohio	X		
Oklahoma	X		
Oregon	X	X	
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island	X		
South Carolina	X	X	
South Dakota	X		
Tennessee	X		
Texas	X	X	X

Utah	X	X	
Vermont	X		
Virginia	X	X	
Washington	X	X	
West Virginia	X	X	
Wisconsin			
Wyoming	X	X	X

© Pharmacy Technician Certification Board • Privacy Policy
 2215 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20037 • Phone: (800) 363-8012 • Email: contact@ptcb.org



National Commission
 for Certifying Agencies
 (NCCA)