



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State

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Date: Thursday, December 13, 2018 1:13 PM
To: Board of Pharmacy Licensees
Subject: Pharmacy technician certification requirements

The Vermont Board of Pharmacy has determined to defer enforcement of national-certification requirements for Pharmacy Technicians. The Board plans to adopt rules recognizing *multiple* paths to State-recognized technician certification. National certification will be among those, but it will not be the exclusive path. Employer-based training will be an option for those pharmacies wishing to develop conforming training.

Pending adoption of a revised rule on technician qualifications, pharmacists may use their professional judgment to delegate tasks permitted of a Certified Pharmacy Technician under Rule 5.2 to any Vermont-licensed pharmacy technician who is qualified by training, education, and experience, to perform those tasks, regardless of national certification.

The multi-path rule proposed by the Board has not yet been adopted and does not have the force of law, but we would like to share it with you to facilitate planning:

Eligibility for Registration. *To be eligible for registration as a pharmacy technician, an applicant shall:*

- (a) be at least 18 years of age;*
- (b) hold a high-school diploma, General Equivalency Diploma, or a substantially equivalent certificate of educational achievement;*
- (c) have completed, commenced, enrolled in, or received an offer of employment conditioned upon completion within six months of:*
 - (1) a pharmacy technician training program offered by a Board-approved, accredited vocational/technical institution or college;*
 - (2) a pharmacy technician training program leading to certification by a Board-approved, national certifying authority;*
 - (3) a pharmacy technician training program accredited by a Board-approved, national pharmacy technician training accreditation organization;*
 - (4) a pharmacy technician training program provided by a branch of the United States armed forces or Public Health Service; or*
 - (5) an employer-based pharmacy technician training program approved by the Board as adequately establishing and testing trainee competency in:***
 - i. technician-level pharmacology;***
 - ii. State and federal law and regulations;***
 - iii. Skills consistent with the duties of a technician at the pharmacy location;***
 - iv. medication safety;***
 - v. quality-assurance procedures;***
 - vi. order and fill processes, including dose calculation;***
 - vii. inventory management; and***
 - viii. information systems.***

If your pharmacy has in place a technician training program that covers and tests the eight competency elements above, be sure to carefully document its content and each new hire's completion of that content. This may allow us to avoid putting technicians through redundant training when revised rules are adopted. Technicians who are already nationally certified need not worry about demonstrating employer-based training, as certification is a recognized alternative.