POWER-PAK C.E.*

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CE LIBRARY

All the CE needed for PTCB Recertification and State Requirements*
Unlimited Access for 2 years for Only $34.95

*Developed by Power-Pak C.E. in conjunction with faculty from leading colleges of pharmacy.
The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) was established in 1995 and is governed by five pharmacy organizations—American Pharmacists Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists, Michigan Pharmacists Association, and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. The mission of PTCB is to advocate a single national standard for pharmacy technician certification.

Recently, PTCB began phasing in new standards for certification and recertification, and will continue to do so through 2020, which are designed to develop skills and competencies that are necessary for pharmacy technicians to excel in the evolving health care system. These standards include mandatory background checks, accredited education requirements, and modifications in acceptable continuing education (CE) for recertification. The changes to the certification and recertification programs are the result of a PTCB initiative that originated from a 2011 summit whose focus centered on five areas related to pharmacy technicians: Consumer Awareness, Resources, Education, State Policy, and Testing (commonly referred to as the C.R.E.S.T. Initiative). Notable changes to the certification and recertification requirements for pharmacy technicians include the following:

- By 2020, PTCB will require each new candidate for certification to complete an accredited pharmacy technician education program.

- To qualify for PTCB recertification, each Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) must complete: (a) one hour of patient safety CE beginning in 2014, which is in addition to the one hour of pharmacy law CE already required; and (b) twenty hours of pharmacy technician-specific CE beginning in 2015.

- The number of acceptable CE hours will be modified as follows: (a) CE hours earned through college or university coursework will be lowered from 15 to 10 hours beginning in 2016; and (b) CE hours earned through in-services will be lowered from 10 to 5 hours starting in 2015 and from 5 to 0 in 2018.

In order for a CE activity to qualify as pharmacy technician-specific, the objectives must assess the competencies stated in PTCB’s Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination Blueprint, which focuses on drug information, medication safety, pharmacy law, compounding, and general pharmacy practice.
HOW WILL POWER-PAK’S PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CE LIBRARY PREPARE TECHNICIANS TO EFFECTIVELY FUNCTION IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM?

Eighty-three percent of pharmacists agree that working with a certified pharmacy technician allows them to spend more time directly caring for patients. We anticipate that Power-Pak’s comprehensive library of T-designated CE will increase the pharmacy technician’s ability to impact quality measures and patient care outcomes, in accordance with the evolving pharmacy practice model.

Pharmacy technicians who participate in these CE courses will be better prepared to:

• Collect and communicate patient-specific data to the pharmacist
• Accurately interpret and communicate drug information in daily practice
• Describe multiple factors that influence drug responses
• Summarize key concepts in medication safety and pharmacy law
• List effective inventory and medication order entry practices
• Solve pharmacy math problems
• Discuss the evolving roles of the pharmacy technician

This library is also designed to allow Pharmacy Technicians to meet all CE requirements in all 50 states.*

DEVELOPMENT OF POWER-PAK’S PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CE LIBRARY

Our pharmacy technician recertification courses were developed by educational specialists from Postgraduate Healthcare Education, Power-Pak C.E. in conjunction with faculty from leading colleges of pharmacy. The objectives for each T-designated course align with the core competencies listed in PTCB’s Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination Blueprint.

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Understanding Sales Restrictions for Nonprescription Drug Products
Everyday millions of people rely on medications containing pseudoephedrine and nonprescription drug products for their intended use; however, a small percentage of people buy these same products with the intent of using them inappropriately. Accordingly, it is important for pharmacy technicians to familiarize themselves with new products that contain pseudoephedrine as well as pharmacy laws concerning controlled substances and behind-the-counter medications.

The Expanding Role of the Pharmacy Technician—MTM and Vaccination Support
The number of vaccinations administered in community pharmacies is substantial. In a given year, a single pharmacy chain will immunize more than 7 million patients against seasonal influenza and H1N1. Having well-trained pharmacy technicians has allowed for the reallocation of pharmacist time to more patient-centered functions, such as vaccinations and MTM. Accordingly, an increased pharmacist concentration on clinically-oriented activities is vital to improving patient care and may be key to preventing medication errors and rising health care costs. In this CE program, faculty explore the expanding role of pharmacy technicians to support pharmacy’s professional engagement in direct patient care initiatives.

OTC Drug Products (2 parts):

- Pharmacy Technician Review: Nonprescription Analgesics for Headache and Common Conditions Causing Pain
- Maximizing Patient Interaction at the Pharmacy Counter: OTC Medications for Allergic Rhinitis and the Common Cold

For many Americans, OTC medications are accessible, relied upon, and effective. In fact, an estimated 240 million people in the United States currently use OTC medicines, and 25% of them would not seek alternative treatment if OTC medicines were not available. Considering the pharmacy technician is often the first point of contact for patients who have questions about OTC drug products, they are in a perfect position to collect and communicate patient-specific data to pharmacists, which facilitates more efficient patient-pharmacist discussion regarding self-care issues. The first OTC course offering provides a review of commonly used OTC products for allergic rhinitis and the common cold, while the second focuses on OTC analgesic medications for headache and common conditions causing pain. With an increased understanding of OTC medications and their appropriate use, pharmacy technicians will become more confident in their drug information skills, leading to improved communication with their coworkers, customers, and other health care professionals.

Drug Inventory—Thinking It Through
Over the past decade, the number of drugs that treat medical illness and disease has increased dramatically. Because medication needs are often urgent, proper control of drug inventory is critical. Pharmacy technicians spend a significant amount of their time maintaining inventory control systems to help minimize out-of-stock situations and spoilage due to expired medication. Also, inventory management plays a significant role in reducing harmful medication errors. Pharmacy technicians should be aware of steps that can be taken to improve inventory management processes, considering the overarching goal of health care is to provide cost-effective patient care while limiting adverse drug events.
Common Childhood Illnesses: Considerations for the Pharmacy Technician

Drug dosages for children differ greatly from those for adults because of the physiological differences between the two. As a result, small miscalculations may lead to either subtherapeutic doses or significant toxicity. These consequences were further highlighted when the FDA’s Pediatric Advisory Committee and Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee rejected cough and cold medication use in children less than 2 years of age due to a lack of efficacy data and errors from dosing and drug administration. Because pharmacy technicians play a pivotal role in the overall dispensing processes of pediatric medications, a review of common illnesses among children is needed.

Why Do Drugs Affect People Differently? Factors That Influence Drug Responses

Safe and effective drug treatment is not only a function of the physical and chemical properties of drugs, but also a function of how the human body responds to the administration of medications. While these interactions are complex, they further underscore the importance of pharmacy technicians filling prescriptions carefully and accurately at all times. Therefore, pharmacy technicians should have a greater understanding of factors that affect the way a drug acts in the body, including human variability, disease states, and drug-drug interactions, seeing they are often prompted with patient safety alerts during the order entry process.

Understanding Medical Terminology and Pharmacology Associated With the Eye: Glaucoma, Dry Eye and Conjunctivitis

Medication safety is enhanced when pharmacy technicians are familiar with medical science terms and pharmacology, especially if they enter prescriptions. The majority of words and abbreviations used in daily pharmacy practice are not common in everyday speech and can seem overwhelming to those who are not familiar with them. Therefore, a firm understanding of medical science terminology and pharmacology will prepare pharmacy technicians to recognize how the nomenclature system is used in naming drug classes, in addition to influencing their ability to interpret and communicate drug information accurately.

Recent Developments Surrounding the Appropriate Disposal of Medications

The U.S. Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration recently announced rules that allow participating pharmacies, certain hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities to collect medication for proper disposal. This is significant because consumers often flush medications down the toilet or toss them in garbage cans, which is unsafe for the environment, considering active and nonactive chemicals could potentially contaminate drinking supplies. In addition, unused and expired drugs that occupy medicine cabinets and household drawers continue to add to the growing problem of accidental poisonings in children, in addition to the illegal possession of controlled substances. Consequently, pharmacy technicians need to be aware of changes in drug disposal laws as well as what to tell patients regarding the appropriate disposal of medications.

Medication Safety: The Role of the Technician in Preventing Medication Errors

Preventing medication errors is a vital role that is shared by all health care professionals, including pharmacy technicians. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) highlights several areas during the dispensing process where well-trained pharmacy technicians can help reduce medication errors, including prescription drop off, order entry, filling, and the point of sale. By having a greater understanding of how these issues lead to mistakes, pharmacy technicians will be more prepared to identify and lessen the risk of medication errors in daily practice.
New Drug Approvals, 2014
In order for medicines to become available for human use, pharmaceutical companies must receive market approval by the FDA, which is a rigorous, time consuming process that can take over a decade to complete. Because pharmacy technicians are often the initial point of contact when patients enter the pharmacy, they are frequently asked questions related to brand name and generic medicines. As a result, technicians should be conversant with new drugs entering the market, medications that have lost patent protection, as well as regulatory approval processes for both new and generic drug products.

Knowing Where to Find Key Drug Information—Understanding Drug Resources
Responding to drug information questions accurately and efficiently is an important part of pharmacy practice, underscoring the importance of pharmacy technicians becoming more familiar with key drug references. As the responsibilities of pharmacists shift toward direct patient care, expanding the roles of pharmacy technicians is critical to the evolving pharmacy practice model. Therefore, advancing pharmacy technicians’ knowledge with regard to the effective use of drug information resources will facilitate communication between the technician and pharmacist, resulting in more timely and improved patient care.

Home Health Monitoring Equipment: The Pharmacy Technician's Role
Pharmacy technicians may help raise awareness that pharmacists are a good source of information regarding medical devices and home monitoring equipment, including thermometers, glucose meters, breathing devices, and blood pressure monitors. However, pharmacy technicians need to have a firm understanding with regard to various aspects of chronic health conditions in order to identify those who would likely benefit from pharmacist counseling. This CE program addresses the relationship between the pathophysiology of chronic disease, the appropriate use of home health monitoring equipment, and the role of the pharmacy technician in patient management.

Pharmacy Calculations (2 parts):

- Units of Measurement and Methods of Calculation
- Concentrations, Dilutions, and Drug Dosing

One important element of pharmacy practice in which technicians play a key role is making sure that the right patient receives the right drug at the right dose. However, in order to maintain patient safety, there are several calculations that pharmacy technicians must be able to perform proficiently. The following 2-part CE activity provides a review of pharmacy calculations that is aimed at increasing the technician’s ability to solve everyday math problems. In Pharmacy Calculations Part 1, the focal points include solving pharmacy math problems using dimensional analysis and ratio-proportion methods of calculation, converting between units of measurement, and determining the day's supply of medications. In Pharmacy Calculations Part 2, the focus is more on drug concentrations, dilutions, and individualized drug dosing to ensure that doses of medications are appropriate for each individual patient.
Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategies (REMS): The Role of the Pharmacy Technician

In 2011, the FDA received more than 800,000 adverse event reports through the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS), which is more than twice the amount reported in 2003. Some case reports contained at least one serious adverse event that was not described in product labeling, while other case reports may have been expected based on previously reported events. In addition, the specialty pharmaceutical pipeline continues to grow, with more than 900 biological agents in the developmental process in 2013. Considering the market entry of biological agents is expected to increase and the number of reported adverse events is trending upward, a larger percentage of medicines will likely have more complex and detailed drug safety programs, such as Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategies (REMS), which reinforces the need for pharmacy technicians to be aware of existing medication safeguards.

A Review of Interventions for Smoking Cessations

Cigarette smoking is the single largest preventable cause of premature death in the United States, and 440,000 preventable premature deaths are attributed to nicotine-related diseases each year. This CE activity is designed to inform and educate pharmacy personnel about the history of and rationale for smoking cessation. It includes discussion centered on the prevalence of tobacco use, the epidemiology of tobacco-related diseases, prescription-only and over-the-counter (OTC) medications, nonpharmacologic treatments for smoking cessation, and the role of pharmacy personnel in smoking cessation programs.

The Affordable Care Act: Implications for Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, and Patients

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) was passed with the following goals in mind: achieving better health care, expanding access to care, and reducing the costs of care. The goal of this educational activity is to provide an overview of the PPACA, enabling pharmacy technicians to better serve the needs of their customers. As this legislation increases the number of prescriptions presented to the average pharmacy, there will be additional opportunities for pharmacy technicians to be involved with the organization and maintenance of pharmacy operations.

Controlled Substance/Schedule Drugs: A Pharmacy Technician’s Review

Controlled substances, or Schedule drugs, provide effective relief from pain and illness and improve the quality of life of many patients. While in most cases the benefits of Schedule drugs outweigh their risks, the pharmacy technician should be knowledgeable about the potential harm associated with these products. Additionally, it is vital that pharmacy technicians understand the differences between processing a prescription for a Schedule drug versus a non-Schedule drug. This activity will educate the pharmacy technician regarding the most accurate and legal method to receive and process prescriptions for controlled substances.

Protecting Pharmacy Information from Discovery: Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Act

Patient safety improvement efforts are sometimes hampered by the fear of peer deliberations, which often results in under reporting of adverse events and the inability to aggregate sufficient patient safety event data for analysis. Importantly, by analyzing patient safety and adverse event information, select organizations are able to identify patterns of failures and propose measures to eliminate patient safety risks and hazards. The goal of this program is to review legal discovery and the role of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act in fostering an atmosphere where quality information can be safely collected to improve outcomes.
LIVE WEBINAR SCHEDULE FOR 2015

12 live 1 hour Webinars available per year:

- **February**: An Update on Immunizations for the Pharmacy Technician
- **March**: HIV—What Every Pharmacy Technician Should Know
- **April**: Minimizing Medication Errors: The Role of the Technician
- **May - December**: Topics being finalized

*Note for Florida Techs only. As required by Florida, we’re in the process of securing Florida State Board approval for the HIV/AIDS and Medication Errors CE credit hours.*

WHO IS POSTGRADUATE HEALTHCARE EDUCATION?

Postgraduate Healthcare Education (PHE) is an accredited ACPE provider that owns the PowerPak.com website and is responsible for the program development and accreditation of activities that are available through the website. These activities include both pharmacist and pharmacy technician accredited courses. There are over 240 credit hours currently available addressing over 40 topic areas. Included in this diverse group of activities are tuition courses, certificate programs, and a comprehensive library of programs for pharmacy technicians.

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF POWER-PAK C.E.?

Power-Pak C.E. has been a leading destination for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to acquire continuing education for over 22 years. Pharmacy professionals visited PowerPak.com over 2.9 million times in 2014. Utilization of the website has increased 30% since 2010, making it one of the leading destinations for pharmacy professionals to earn Continuing Pharmacy Education and Pharmacy Technician credit.

Over 100,000 pharmacy technicians use PowerPak.com to earn their required CE. With continual access to 40 credit hours of technician-specific CE, pharmacy technicians in any practice setting are assured of identifying programs to meet their educational needs. The confidence that the U.S. based pharmacy community has in Power-Pak CE activities is a strong indicator of the quality and value of our courses.
THE POWER-PAK C.E. PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CE LIBRARY
ALL THE CE NEEDED FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS FOR $34.95

- All the CE you need for your PTCB recertification and all of your state requirements* for only 88¢ per credit hour

- Unlimited access to 20 key topics and 40 credit hours, presented in a widely used Power-Pak C.E. format

- Designed to meet 2015’s new PTCB pharmacy technician-specific recertification requirements

- Patient safety and law activities available

- One live webinar available each month for 1 hour of live CE credit

- Choose from a broad selection of activities so you’re sure to find courses that interest you

- All courses are available to you 24/7 for 2 years so you can get credits whenever you need them

- CE activities are continually updated and added to assure 40 credit hours are available to you

*Note for Florida Techs only. As required by Florida, we’re in the process of securing Florida State Board approval for the HIV/AIDS and Medication Errors CE credit hours.

Accessing and Purchasing the Power-Pak Pharmacy Technician CE Library

Please visit http://www.powerpak.com/pht20/. All course and purchase information is available through this link.
For Pharmacy Technicians
If you have any questions about viewing the content or navigating PowerPak.com, please contact Power-Pak Customer Service at 800-825-4696 or cecustomerservice@powerpak.com.

For Group Purchases via Pharmacy Chains/Employers
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