

Know Your Role

Pharmacy Technician Scope of Practice

Pharmacy Technician is a title restricted to individuals who meet the educational work experience and professional qualifications approved by the College Council.

The Regulation to *The Pharmaceutical Act* describes the tasks and responsibilities that are considered within the scope of practice of a pharmacy technician.

In a pharmacy, a pharmacy technician may perform the following tasks under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist:

- a) review the information in a prescription for compliance with federal and provincial law;
- b) before a drug is dispensed, perform a final check when the process of preparing the drug for dispensing was performed by another pharmacy technician, student, intern or another pharmacy staff person such as a pharmacy assistant, but only if the pharmacy manager has applied to Council for approval of the drug packaging preparation processes used in the pharmacy and Council has approved these processes;
- c) dispense a drug, if a licensed pharmacist has approved filling the prescription and the standards of practice related to a pharmacist's responsibility to counsel the patient are met;
- d) identify drug-related problems that require referral to a pharmacist;

- e) give instructions to a person about how to operate a medical device, but not an explanation involving the interpretation of the results or value of the device;
- f) ask a practitioner and receive his or her instructions as to whether an existing prescription can be refilled as previously prescribed and without any change to the prescription; and,
- g) perform necessary tasks at an external dispensing site.

It is important to note that while pharmacy technicians are recognized under the Regulation to *The Pharmaceutical Act* with an enhanced scope of practice, pharmacy managers and supervising pharmacists remain responsible and accountable for all tasks completed by pharmacy technicians in Manitoba.

The following Scope of Practice comparison chart serves as a helpful tool to easily identify the additional tasks that may be performed by a pharmacy technician in a pharmacy.



Scope of Practice	Pharmacy Assistant/ Other Employee	Pharmacy Technician
Prepare and pre-package drugs for dispensing	✓	✓
Select an appropriate container	✓	✓
Replenish drug storage containers and dispensing machines	✓	✓
Attach the prescription label to a container	✓	✓
Record and retrieve data about a patient or prescription	✓	✓
Compound, if a pharmacist has approved the formulation and process	✓	✓
Enter prescription information into a database	✓	✓
Collect information from a patient for a patient profile	✓	✓
Manage drug inventory	✓	✓
Identify drug-related problems that require a referral to a pharmacist	✗	✓
Review the information in a prescription for compliance with federal and provincial law	✗	✓
Perform a final check when a medication was prepared for dispensing by another technician, student, intern, or pharmacy assistant, but only if the pharmacy manager has received approval from College Council for the drug packaging and preparation process	✗	✓
Dispense a drug if the supervising pharmacist has approved filling the prescription and the supervising pharmacist counsels the patient	✗	✓
Instruct a patient on how to operate a medical device, but not provide an explanation involving the interpretation of the results of the device	✗	✓
Ask for, and receive, a refill authorization from a practitioner on an existing prescription without any changes to the prescription as originally prescribed	✗	✓
Perform necessary tasks at an external dispensing site	✗	✓

The Collaborative and Complimentary Roles of the Pharmacist and the Pharmacy Technician

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians fulfill complementary roles in providing patient care. Pharmacy technicians perform many pharmacy tasks, **but** must also know when to involve a pharmacist. For example, pharmacy technicians can

- review prescriptions to ensure they meet legal requirements, **but** must refer drug-related problems they discover during medication checks or conversations with patients to a pharmacist
- give instructions to a patient about how to operate a medical device, **but** must leave any explanation involving the interpretation of results to a pharmacist
- accept an authorization for a prescription if it is unchanged by the prescriber, **but** must refer new or altered verbal prescriptions from the prescriber to a pharmacist.

The pharmacist remains responsible for reviewing all prescriptions, new and refilled, to determine whether the prescription is therapeutically appropriate and safe for the patient, and conduct medication counselling or provide drug information to all patients.

Once the prescription has been approved by the pharmacist, a pharmacy technician can perform the final check of the medication dispensed by another pharmacy technician or pharmacy assistant providing Council has approved the technician final check process in place at the pharmacy.

Pharmacy technicians and pharmacists each functioning to a full scope of practice can result in improved patient care and safety by:

- Improving work-flow in the pharmacy
- Providing additional time for pharmacists to be involved in drug therapy management activities and patient interactions

Pharmacy Technician Pathways

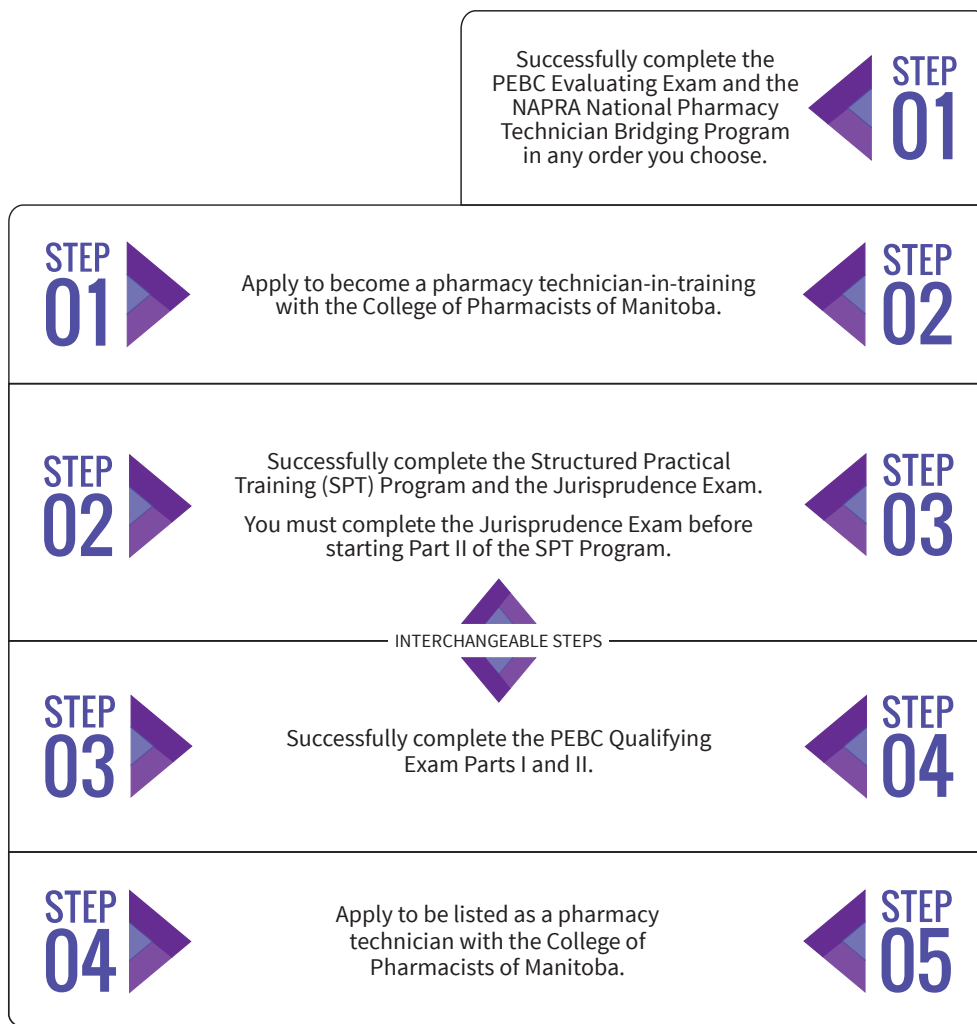
There are two pathways for individuals who wish to become pharmacy technicians in Manitoba. All of the steps in either Option A or Option B in the chart below must be completed before the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba (College) can list you as a pharmacy technician.

OPTION A*

For individuals who have graduated from a Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) accredited pharmacy technician training program.

OPTION B*

For pharmacy assistants who have worked at least 2000 hours as a member of a pharmacy team within the last three years.



* As of January 1, 2014, OPTION A candidates have five years from the day they graduate from a CCAPP accredited program to complete the SPT program and be listed with the College. A pharmacy technician-in-training who graduated before January 1, 2014, must be listed with the College by January 1, 2019.

*The deadline for OPTION B candidates to successfully pass the PEBC Pharmacy Technician Evaluating Examination is December 31, 2018.