

Career Profile PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

What is a Pharmacy Technician? – Career Description/Scope

Pharmacy Technicians are regulated health professionals. Their expertise focuses on knowledge, skills and abilities related to technical elements of prescription, patient information and of product and drug distribution.

Education Requirements to Work in Ontario

The Pharmacy Technician program is a 2 year Ontario College Diploma program offered at many colleges across the province and country.

Admission Requirements:

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma, including specific classes of:
 - Grade 12 English
 - Grade 11 or 12 Chemistry
 - Grade 11 or 12 Biology or Physics
 - Grade 11 Mathematics

Program Specifics:

- 2 year Ontario College Diploma program with field placement

Pharmacy Technician Practice Requirements

To practice in Ontario, Pharmacy Technicians must be registered with the Ontario College of Pharmacists and perform the following requirements:

- Entry to Practice
 - Structured practical training
 - Jurisprudence exam
 - Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada qualifying exam
- Ongoing
 - Continuing Education

How does a Pharmacy Technician Practice at TBRHSC?

- Works to scope of practice as outlined by various legislation and authorities including:
 - Ontario College of Pharmacists
 - National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA)
 - Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)
 - Pharmacy Act
 - Public Hospitals Act
- Collaborate with Pharmacists
- Maintain the four General Standards as set out by NAPRA:
 - Expertise in drug distribution systems
 - Collaboration and effective communication

- Safety and Quality – continuing professional development/quality assurance and improvement and respond to safety risks
- Professionalism and Ethics
- Responsible and accountable for ensuring safety and quality of prescription-product preparation and release

What does a Pharmacy Technician Do?

Pharmacy Technician job duties include:

- Dispensing prescription medications
- Sterile compounding and preparation
- Chemotherapy preparation
- Narcotic distribution
- Replenishing ward stock medications on the nursing units
- Compounding and repackaging medications
- Prescription order entry
- Filling and checking unit dose cassettes

Web Resources

- National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities www.napra.ca
- Mohawk College <http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/health-sciences-programs/pharmacy-technician-diploma.html>
- Ontario College of Pharmacists www.ocpinfo.com
- Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians www.capt.ca/
- National Pharmacy Technician Association www.pharmacytechnician.org/
- Pharmacy Technician Certification Board www.ptcb.org/AM/Template.cfm