

Technician Educational Requirements

Thoughts from PSW Technician Section Board Discussion

January 28, 2008

This document is a summary of notes taken during the PSW Technician Section Board Meeting on 1/28/08. The considerations listed in this document are intended to facilitate further discussion.

PSW's Technician Section Board looks forward to working with the Pharmacy Examining Board as a liaison to pharmacy technicians throughout the State of Wisconsin. In recognition of the important role of pharmacy technicians in the profession of pharmacy, the Technician Section Board looks forward to assisting with the development of standards for pharmacy technicians to:

- Improve patient safety and health outcomes
- Improve accountability amongst pharmacy technicians
- Provide standards for uniform training of pharmacy technicians

For patient safety, the following are considerations for requirements to serve in the role as a pharmacy technician:

- Minimum age requirement-18 years old
- High school graduate or GED
- Successful completion of a formal 1-2 year "accredited" educational program to include experiential education in a variety of clinical settings
- Educational program will have Pharmacy Examining Board's approval
- Completion of continuing education credits
- Criminal background check

Key Questions:

1. How will the PEB maintain a record of pharmacy technicians that have received disciplinary or criminal action from previous employment?
2. Does passing the PTCE (or other national certification exam) make a pharmacy technician qualified to perform duties of a pharmacy technician?
3. Will new standards that are established only be for those new pharmacy technicians? Should there be minimal standards established for existing technicians? How will pharmacy technicians that have been in practice for many years be "grand-fathered" into this policy?