

Pharmacy Technician Career: Present and Future

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Financial Disclosure

Zachary Green is employed by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. He “declare(s) no other conflicts of interest, real or apparent, and no other financial interests in any company, product, or service mentioned in this program, including grants, employment, gifts, stock holdings, and honoraria.”



Learning Objectives

- Explain upcoming changes to the Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination (PTCE) and CPhT eligibility requirements
- Identify and discuss innovative roles and responsibilities performed by pharmacy technicians
- Recognize national regulatory landscape for pharmacy technicians and describe recent updates or changes in laws
- Describe the development of advanced technician certification activities



Mission and Vision



Mission: PTCB advances medication safety by certifying technicians who are qualified to support pharmacists and patient care teams in all practice settings.



Vision: PTCB sets the standard for certification of technicians that improves medication safety and patient care.



PTCB by the Numbers

- ✓ 676,768 pharmacy technician certifications since 1995*
- ✓ 288,404 active certified pharmacy technicians*
- ✓ 48,862 CPhT exams in 2018*
- ✓ 1,436 secure Pearson VUE testing centers
- ✓ Administered and accepted in all 50 states, DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico
- ✓ PTCB is accepted in the regulations of 46 states + DC

*as of 12.2018

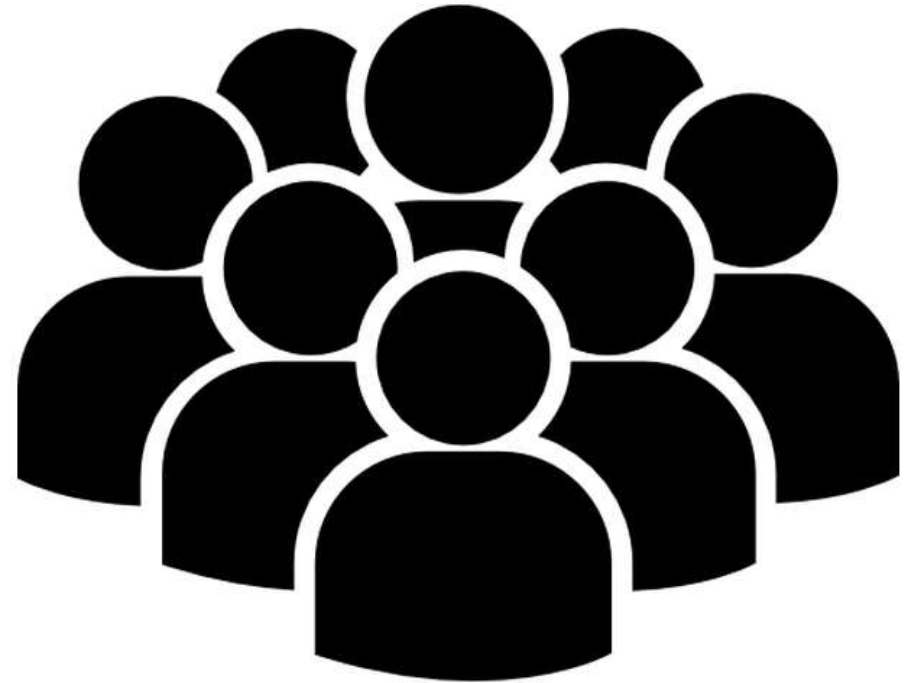


By the Numbers

417,720 pharmacy technicians prepare medications under the direction of pharmacist.

May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders.

<https://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes292052.htm>



Recent CPhT Changes: PTCE Eligibility for HS Seniors

- ✓ High school students within 60 days of graduation may apply for and take the PTCE
- ✓ Certification will not be granted until proof of completion is received
- ✓ Implementation: 2017



Recent CPhT Changes: PTCE Eligibility for HS Seniors

Home Certificates Orders and Payments Help

CPhT Certification Application - Education Requirement

By marking the checkbox below, I understand that holding a high school diploma or equivalent educational diploma (e.g., a GED or an equivalent foreign diploma) is required in order to earn PTCB Certification. I represent and certify that I have obtained or I am within 60 days of obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent educational diploma.

Please Note: Candidates who are within 60 days of completion must provide proof of high school diploma or equivalent educational diploma to PTCB prior to earning PTCB Certification.

Please input at least 2 search criteria and click "Search For Institution", then select your educational institution from the search results.

For Homeschooled candidates, enter 970000 in the CEEB code field and "Homeschooling" in the Institution Name field. If your school is not listed, enter "000003" for the CEEB code and "Unlisted" in the Institution Name field.

I have obtained or I am within 60 days of obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent educational diploma.

Please enter your graduation (or expected graduation) date below.

Institution Name

Institution State

Institution City

Institution CEEB

Search for Institution

Back Cancel Continue



Recent CPhT Changes: PTCE Test Center Expansion

- ✓ Previously PTCB only delivered the PTCE outside of Pearson Professional Centers when there was a demonstrated need
- ✓ Recent internal analysis supported opening more test centers in education institutions
- ✓ PTCB continues to monitor test center incidents and take appropriate actions to protect the integrity of the PTCE
- ✓ This has resulted in 1,000 additional test centers nationwide



Recent CPhT Changes: ISO 17024 Accreditation

- ✓ A rigorous process that includes onsite audits of all program activities
- ✓ PTCB will continue to maintain both NCCA and ANSI accreditations



Future CPhT Changes:

Recertification Requirements

2015

PTCB only accepting pharmacy technician-specific CE

2015

Number of CEs earned via in-service decreased from 10 to 5

2016

Number of CEs earned via college credit decreased from 15 to 10

2018

CEs earned via in-service no longer accepted

Fall 2019

Must have eProfile ID on file with PTCB to recertify



Future CPhT Changes: Education/Training Requirement

Certification Requirement

2020

On January 1, 2020, completion of a:

1. PTCB-recognized education/training program

OR

equivalent work experience

will be required of all CPhT applicants.



Future CPhT Changes: Education/Training Requirement

- ✓ PTCB received over 700 comments on CPhT changes published in January 2018
- ✓ Comments were very diverse, ranging from ‘there should be no education or training requirement’ to ‘go back to requiring accredited education’
- ✓ Follow-up stakeholder outreach led to finalization

Future CPhT Changes: Education/Training Requirement

- ✓ Recognized programs must include specific knowledge in their curriculums
- ✓ This knowledge supplements the new PTCE content outline
- ✓ All ASHP/ACPE and ABHES accredited programs will be recognized
- ✓ Program directors of non-accredited programs must attest
- ✓ Different and separate from accreditation
- ✓ Recognition process to launch fall of 2018



Future CPhT Changes: Education/Training Requirement

Types of programs that can be recognized:

- ✓ Certificate and degree programs
- ✓ College of Pharmacy associated programs
- ✓ Employer training
- ✓ High school programs
- ✓ Military training programs

Future CPhT Changes: Education/Training Requirement

- ✓ Secondary/alternative path for experienced technicians
- ✓ 500 hours of work experience required
- ✓ Applicants attest they have gained requisite knowledge through work and/or self-preparation activities
- ✓ Required knowledge is the same for both paths

Future CPhT Changes: PTCE 3.0

- ✓ New job analysis completed late 2016
- ✓ New blueprint is more focused on key areas relevant across practice settings
- ✓ Implementation: January 1, 2020

Future CPhT Changes: PTCE 3.0

New Domain Structure

1. Medications (40%)
2. Federal Requirements (13%)
3. Patient Safety and Quality Assurance (26%)
4. Order Entry and Processing (21%)

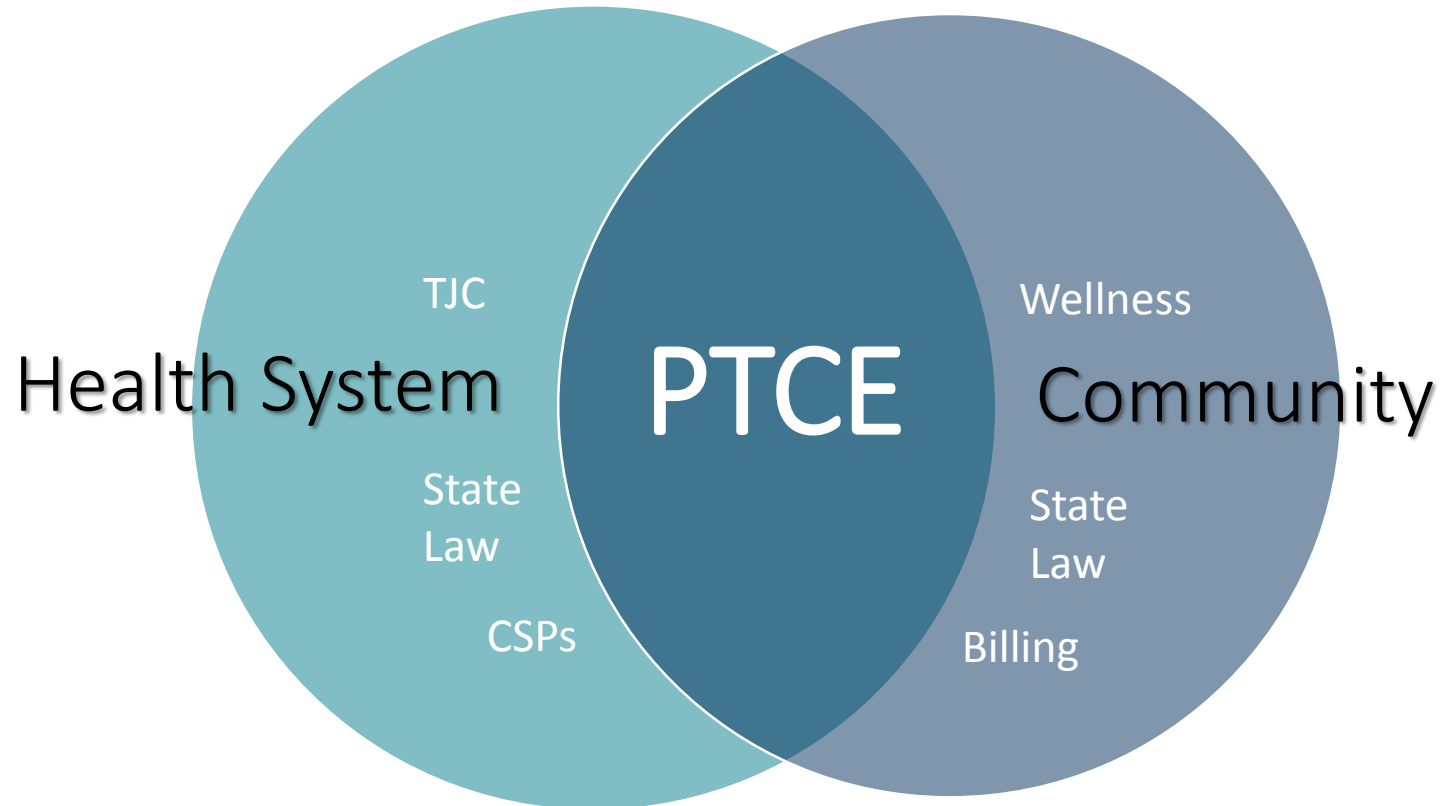
The full Content Outline and Crosswalk are available at

<http://www.ptcb.org/about-ptcb/certification-program-changes>



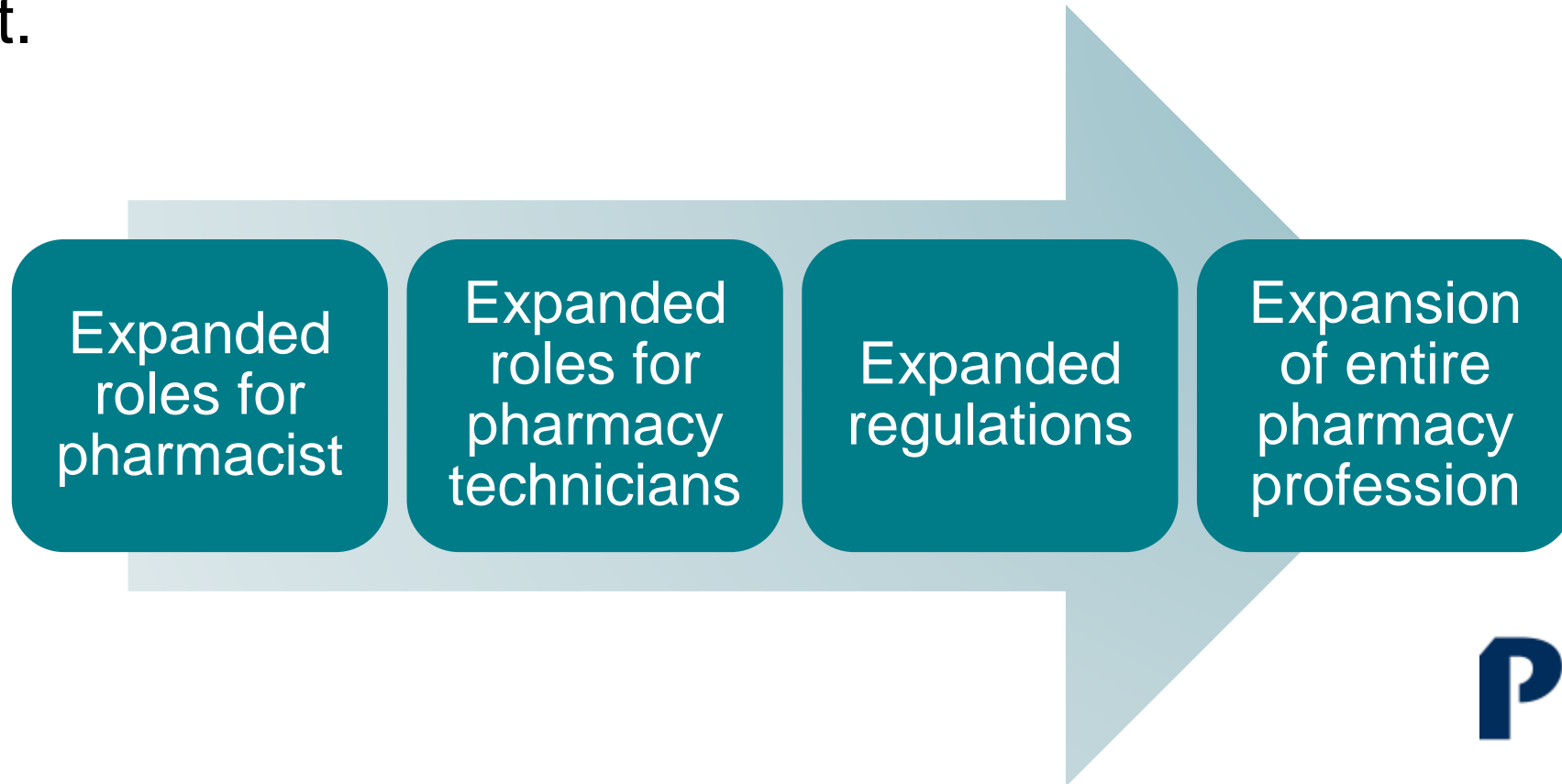
Future CPhT Changes: PTCE 3.0

PTCE will contain only the most important content relevant to both major areas of practice.



Evolution of Pharmacy

Expanded roles often means expanded regulation in states with existing regulations and the addition of regulations in states without.



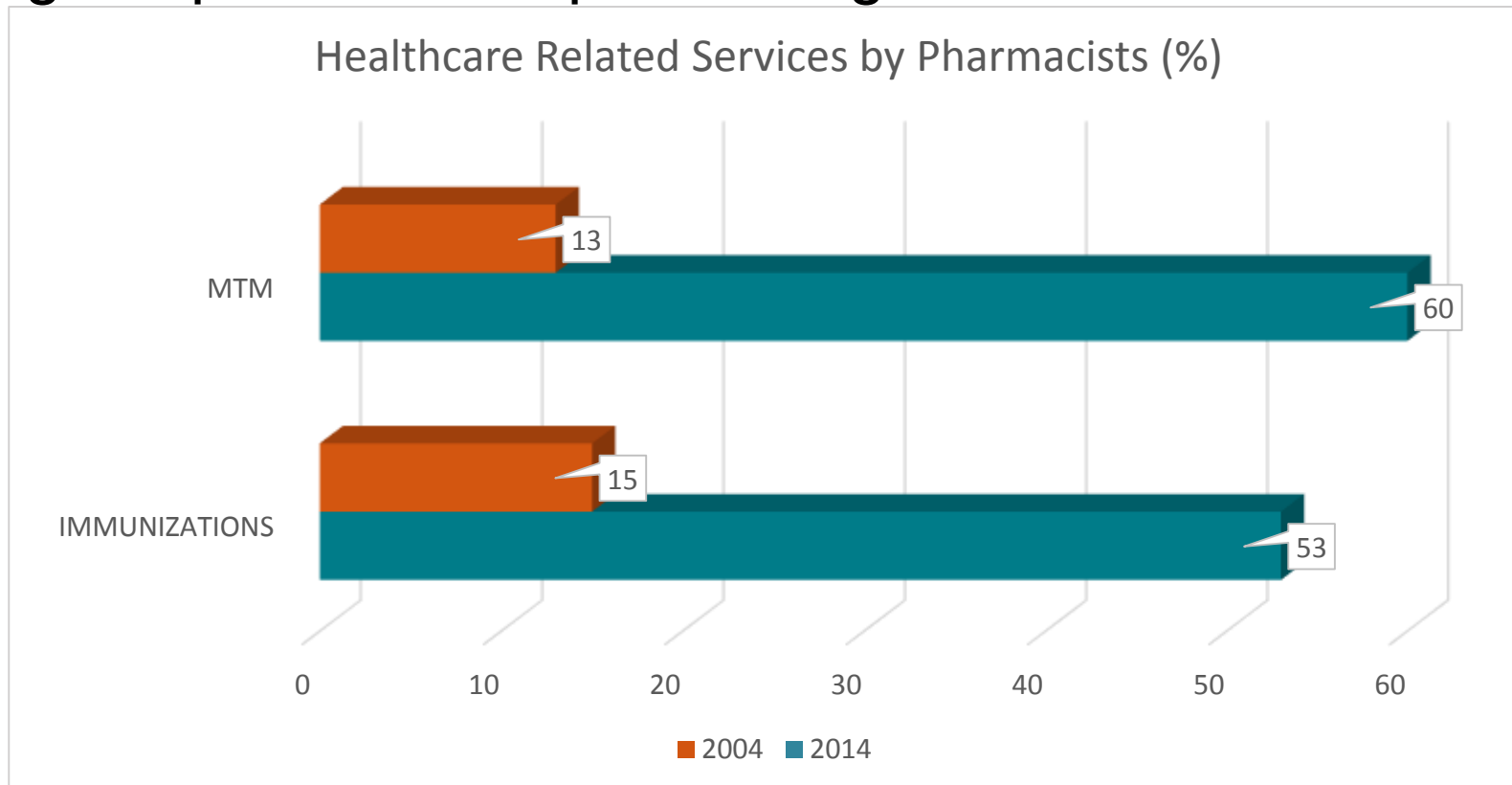
Innovative Roles for Technicians

- ✓ Administration
- ✓ Boards of Pharmacy
- ✓ Billing and reimbursement
- ✓ Clinical technicians (e.g., chronic care, appt. scheduling, medication adherence, smoking cessation, vital signs measurements, data management, etc.)
- ✓ CMS-CMMI grant projects (Innovations Center)
- ✓ Community outreach programs
- ✓ Compounding
 - ✓ Non-sterile
 - ✓ Sterile
- ✓ DUE/ADR monitoring
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Immunizations
- ✓ Indigent care prescription programs
- ✓ Informatics
- ✓ Medication reconciliation/history
- ✓ Medication therapy management
- ✓ Medication safety initiatives
- ✓ Point of care testing
- ✓ Prescription clarification
- ✓ Quality assurance and quality improvement initiatives
- ✓ Refill counseling screening
- ✓ Supply chain management
- ✓ Tech-Check-Tech
- ✓ Telepharmacy



Pharmacy Technician Roles

There has been a dramatic **increase** in the past decade in the percentage of pharmacists performing health care-related services.



Pharmacy Workforce Center's 2014 National Pharmacists Workforce Survey



The Numbers

2016: What sectors of pharmacy are estimated to employ the largest number of pharmacy technicians (out of 372,500 total)?



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, March, 2017



Regulatory Landscape Update

- States to review:
 - California
 - Colorado
 - Idaho
 - Illinois
 - Iowa
 - Mississippi
 - Nebraska
 - New Hampshire
 - Rhode Island
 - Tennessee
 - Utah
 - West Virginia



A decorative diagonal banner on the left side of the slide, featuring a dense pattern of colorful circular icons. These icons represent various fields of study and skills, including science (atom, microscope), technology (circuit board, gear), art (paint palette, camera), and general education (book, graduation cap).

PTCB's Future: Assessment-Based Certificate Programs



Assessment-Based Certificate Programs

- ✓ Tech-check-tech
- ✓ Medication reconciliation/history
- ✓ Hazardous drug management
- ✓ Controlled substance diversion
- ✓ Billing and reimbursement



Self-Assessment Question #1

The PTCE® is administered and accepted in all 50 states, DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

- A. True
- B. False



Self-Assessment Question #2

_____ will be required for recertification beginning in the Fall of 2019.

- A. NCPDP number
- B. DEA number
- C. eProfile number
- D. State license number
- E. None of the above

Self-Assessment Question #3

Pharmacy technicians are allowed by state law to administer immunizations in the following state(s):

- A. Idaho and Illinois
- B. Idaho, Rhode Island, and Utah
- C. Idaho
- D. Idaho and Rhode Island

Self-Assessment Question #4

Which topic will not be included in the initial release of PTCB's assessment-based certificate programs?

- A. Technician product verification
- B. Immunization delivery
- C. Hazardous drug management
- D. Billing and reimbursement
- E. Controlled substance diversion



Questions

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