The Future of Pharmacy Technicians

WRHA Pharmacy Technician Conference
June 15th, 2011
Shawn Bugden
MPhA/PEBC/UofM
The Future
The Future

• “The counting and pouring often alleged to be the pharmacist’s chief occupation will in time be done by technicians and eventually by automation. The pharmacist of tomorrow will function by reason of what he knows, increasing the efficiency and safety of drug therapy and working as a specialist in his own right. It is in this direction that pharmaceutical education must evolve without delay.”

• Linwood F. Tice  Dean, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy,
The Future

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Manitoba’s Regulatory Framework

• Bill 41 – *The Pharmaceutical Act* - Passed December 2006

• Regulations Development – the long and winding road
  – Approval of members (pharmacists) required
  – Defeated March 2008
  – Revised Regulations Document – October 2010
  – Approved my members – November 2010

• Bill 18 – *Health Professions Act*
Manitoba’s Regulatory Framework

Qualification of pharmacy technicians

52(2) A person is qualified as a pharmacy technician if the person is at least 18 years of age and:

a) has graduated from a program of pharmacy technician training as approved by council or successfully completed a bridging educational program as approved by council;

b) has passed any examinations approved by the council; and

c) has successfully completed a structured practical training program approved by council.
Manitoba’s Regulatory Framework

52(3) pharmacy technician may engage in the following aspects of the practice of pharmacy, under the supervision of a member:

a) dispensing, subject to approval by a member under s.50(1d) and any standards related to a member counselling the patient;
b) operating an external dispensing site; and
c) identifying and assessing when drug-related problems require referral to the member.
Manitoba’s Regulatory Framework

• **52(4)** In addition to the delegated duties described in 54(2), the following duties supporting the practice of pharmacy may be performed by a pharmacy technician, under supervision of a member and in accordance with applicable practice directions:
  
a) reviewing the information on the prescription for compliance with federal and provincial regulations;

b) replenishing drug storage containers and dispensing machines;

c) performing a final check when the process of preparing a drug for dispensing was performed by another technician, student or intern, prior to dispensing providing that, prior thereto, an application setting out drug packaging preparation processes consistent with the standards of practice and patient safety have been approved by Council;
Manitoba’s Regulatory Framework

d) providing instruction to a person on how to operate a medical device but not provide any explanation involving the interpretation of the results or value of the device;

e) inquiring of the practitioner or extended practice pharmacist, and receiving the instruction, of whether an existing prescription can be refilled as previously prescribed and without any changes to the prescription;

f) entering the pharmacy when it is closed and, with the exception of (e) and (f) perform the duties listed under this section.
1. Development of formal qualifications based upon education
2. Accreditation of pharmacy technician programs
3. Assessment of Entry to Practice Competencies
4. The emergence of a regulatory body with powers to admit and discipline members
Evaluating Exam

Qualifying Exam

Direct Eligibility Criteria:
- completion of a CCAPP program
- pass OCP Cert. Exam (2008)
- pass PEBC Evaluating Exam (PT or pharmacist)
- completion of an accredited pharmacist degree program in Canada or U.S.

Eligibility Criteria:
2,000 h of work and/or teaching in the past 36 months
Dec 31st, 2015 Deadline

Evaluating Exam

Qualifying Exam

MB Bridging???

Direct Eligibility Criteria:
• completion of a CCAPP program
• pass OCP Cert. Exam (2008)
• pass PTCB-AB Cert. Exam (2008)
• pass PEBC Evaluating Exam (PT or pharmacist)
• completion of an accredited pharmacist degree program in Canada or U.S.

Eligibility Criteria: 2,000 h of work and/or teaching in the past 36 months
PEBC Evaluating Exam

- EVALUATING EXAMINATION DATES
- FALL 2011: Saturday, October 1, 2011
- Application deadline is Monday, July 4, 2011

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING RECEIPT OF ALL DOCUMENTS:
Completed application forms (including checklists) and accompanying documents must be received no later than the application deadline date above. Applications that are received after the deadline date will not be processed.
| Fall Pharmacy Technician Evaluating Examination | British Columbia: Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Prince George
Alberta: Calgary, Edmonton
**Manitoba:** Winnipeg
**Nova Scotia:** Halifax
**Newfoundland:** St. John’s, Cornerbrook, Grand Falls | Monday, July 4th, 2011 | Sat. October 1, 2011 |
PT Evaluating Examination

Examination Information

– 3 hour written exam consisting of 150 multiple choice questions
– exam is offered twice yearly (spring and fall)
– Cost $350

Limit on Number of Attempts

– a maximum of four attempts
PT Evaluating Examination

Blueprint:

Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences 25%
  – includes: pharmacology, physiology, pathophysiology, pharmaceutics

Pharmacy Practice 65%
  – includes: pharmaceutical calculations, dispensing and prescription processing, inventory management, compounding (sterile and non-sterile), federal laws and regulations

Social Behavioural and Administrative Pharmacy 10%
  – includes: profession of pharmacy, management practices, health care systems, quality assurance/patient safety
PT Evaluating Examination

Candidate Resources

• PEBC web site (www.pebc.ca)
• Downloadable information
• Evaluating Examination information
  – application procedure
  – taking the examination
  – references, learning resources, sample questions, other information
Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination for Entry-to-Practice

- national entry-to-practice examination for the assessment and certification of the competence of Pharmacy Technicians for purposes of registration

- exam consists of two parts:
  - written multiple choice question exam (MCQ)
  - performance-based exam
    - Objective Structured Performance Examination (OSPE)

- exam offered twice yearly (winter and summer)
PT Qualifying Examination
Eligibility Criteria

• Completion of the pharmacy technician program at a CCAPP accredited college or institution in Canada
  
  **OR**

• Successful standing and status, gained up to and including December 31, 2008, for the OCP pharmacy technician certification examination
  
  **OR**

• Successful standing and status, gained up to and including June 30, 2008, for the PTCB (AB) pharmacy technician certification examination
  
  **OR**

• **Successful completion of a PEBC Evaluating Examination** (pharmacy technician or pharmacist)
  
  **OR**

• Successful completion of an accredited pharmacist degree program in Canada or the U.S.
PT CANDIDATE RESOURCES

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada

Providing Excellence in Certification for the Pharmacy Profession

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1. Development of formal qualifications based upon education
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4. The emergence of a regulatory body with powers to admit and discipline members
The new Health Professions Advisory Council can now be established and unregulated health professions are now able to apply for regulation as a result of the proclamation today of sections of the Regulated Health Professions Act, Health Minister Theresa Oswald has announced.
The Future
For more information:

- NAPRA - [www.napra.ca/docs/0/95/777.asp](http://www.napra.ca/docs/0/95/777.asp)
- PEBC - [www.pebc.ca](http://www.pebc.ca)
- Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association - [www.napra.org/pages/Manitoba/default.aspx](http://www.napra.org/pages/Manitoba/default.aspx)
- Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians [www.capt.ca](http://www.capt.ca)
- Ontario College of Pharmacists – [www.ocpinfo.com](http://www.ocpinfo.com)
- Alberta College of Pharmacists – [pharmacists.ab.ca/nCollege/default.aspx](http://pharmacists.ab.ca/nCollege/default.aspx)