

Virginia Board of Pharmacy

Practice by a Pharmacy Technician Trainee

Regulations of the Board of Pharmacy allow a person enrolled in a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program to perform duties restricted to pharmacy technicians, for the purpose of obtaining practical experience in accordance with § 54.1-3321 D of the Code of Virginia, for no more than nine months without that person becoming registered as a pharmacy technician. (See Regulations 18VAC110-20-101, 18VAC110-20-111, and definition of “pharmacy technician trainee” in 18VAC110-20-10)

At its meeting on June 12, 2012, the Board interpreted the restriction of nine months of practice for a pharmacy technician trainee to mean **nine consecutive months** from the date the pharmacy technician trainee begins performing duties restricted to a pharmacy technician as part of a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program. For example, a pharmacy technician trainee completes the didactic or classroom portion of a training program and begins performing tasks restricted to a pharmacy technician on January 1st. The technician may conduct tasks restricted to a pharmacy technician until October 1st of that year. If she/he ceases enrollment in the pharmacy technician training program in March and enrolls in a second pharmacy technician training program in July, she/he may still only perform tasks restricted to a pharmacy technician until October 1st of that year. By that date, the trainee must either be registered with the Board as a pharmacy technician or cease performing any tasks restricted to pharmacy technicians.

18VAC110-20-101. Application for registration as a pharmacy technician.

*D. A pharmacy technician trainee may perform tasks restricted to pharmacy technicians **for no more than nine months** without becoming registered as a pharmacy technician.*

18VAC110-20-111. Pharmacy technicians.

*C. Every pharmacy that employs or uses a person enrolled in an approved pharmacy technician training program pursuant to §54.1-3321 D of the Code of Virginia shall allow such person to conduct tasks restricted to pharmacy technicians **for no more than nine months** without that person becoming registered as a pharmacy technician with the board as set forth in 18VAC110-20-101. Every pharmacy using such a person shall have documentation on site and available for inspection showing that the person is currently enrolled in an approved training program and the start date for each pharmacy technician in training.*

18VAC110-20-10 Definitions.

"Pharmacy technician trainee" means a person who is currently enrolled in an approved pharmacy technician training program and is performing duties restricted to pharmacy technicians for the purpose of obtaining practical experience in accordance with § 54.1-3321 D of the Code of Virginia.

§ 54.1-3321. Registration of pharmacy technicians.

A. No person shall perform the duties of a pharmacy technician without first being registered as a pharmacy technician with the Board. Upon being registered with the Board as a pharmacy technician, the following tasks may be performed:

- 1. The entry of prescription information and drug history into a data system or other record keeping system;*
- 2. The preparation of prescription labels or patient information;*
- 3. The removal of the drug to be dispensed from inventory;*
- 4. The counting, measuring, or compounding of the drug to be dispensed;*
- 5. The packaging and labeling of the drug to be dispensed and the repackaging thereof;*
- 6. The stocking or loading of automated dispensing devices or other devices used in the dispensing process;*
- 7. The acceptance of refill authorization from a prescriber or his authorized agency, so long as there is no change to the original prescription; and*
- 8. The performance of any other task restricted to pharmacy technicians by the Board's regulations.*

B. To be registered as a pharmacy technician, a person shall submit satisfactory evidence that he is of good moral character and has satisfactorily completed a training program and examination that meet the criteria approved by the Board in regulation or that he holds current certification from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

C. A pharmacy intern may perform the duties set forth for pharmacy technicians in subsection A when registered with the Board for the purpose of gaining the practical experience required to apply for licensure as a pharmacist.

D. In addition, a person enrolled in an approved training program for pharmacy technicians may engage in the acts set forth in subsection A for the purpose of obtaining practical experience required for registration as a pharmacy technician, so long as such activities are directly monitored by a supervising pharmacist.

E. The Board shall promulgate regulations establishing requirements for evidence of continued competency as a condition of renewal of a registration as a pharmacy technician.

F. The Board shall waive the initial registration fee and the first examination fee for the Board-approved examination for a pharmacy technician applicant who works as a pharmacy technician exclusively in a free clinic pharmacy. If such applicant fails the examination, he shall be responsible for any subsequent fees to retake the examination. A person registered pursuant to this subsection shall be issued a limited-use registration. A pharmacy technician with a limited-use registration shall not perform pharmacy technician tasks in any setting other than a free clinic pharmacy. The Board shall also waive renewal fees for such limited-use registrations. A pharmacy technician with a limited-use registration may convert to an unlimited registration by paying the current renewal fee.