IN THIS ISSUE

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

Pharmacy Technician-specific CE Track

The annual Midyear Clinical Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, December 4-8, 2016. Understanding the increasingly demanding roles of pharmacy technicians, ASHP has identified over 50 educational sessions that are approved for pharmacy technician-specific CE, designated by a "T" at the end of the ACPE activity number. The full program agenda will be available in November but a list of planned sessions can be found here. All educational sessions are open to all registered attendees.

Keynote Speaker-Peyton Manning

The keynote speaker for this year's Midyear Clinical Meeting will be Peyton Manning, former quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts and Denver Broncos and two-time Super Bowl champion. For his actions off the field, Manning was honored as the recipient of the

Byron "Whizzer" White Humanitarian Award and the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year in 2005 as well as the Bart Starr Award in 2014.

Manning serves as a member of the American Red Cross National Celebrity Cabinet and The Pat Summit Foundation Advisory Board. He and his wife, Ashley, established the PeyBack Foundation in 1999 to promote the future success of disadvantaged youth by assisting programs that provide leadership and growth opportunities for children at risk.

The PeyBack Foundation has provided more than $10 million of impact to at-risk youth through its grants and programs since its inception.

PTAC Overview

The Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) is a collaboration of the American Society of Health-system Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). PTAC consists of 9 voting members and 3 non-voting members. Members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who bring experience and perspectives from a wide variety of pharmacy practice areas (e.g., community, health-system, long-term care), pharmacy technician educators from a variety of settings, pharmacists involved in the regulation of the profession, and a public member. In addition, there are three non-voting members: a secretary staff member from ASHP or ACPE, as well as board liaisons from ASHP and ACPE. PTAC recommendations require approval of both ASHP and ACPE boards of directors.

The main functions of PTAC include:

- Reviewing applications for accreditation and evaluation of pharmacy technician education and training programs
- Recommending accreditation actions to the ASHP Board of Directors and the ACPE Board of Directors
- Making recommendations to the Boards regarding standards, policies and procedures, and other matters related to PTAC's activities and services
- Assisting in strategic planning in matters related to pharmacy technician education and training
- Identifying potential activities and collaborative opportunities
- Soliciting and receiving input and advice from other stakeholders to obtain broad perspectives to help assure the quality, validity, and improvement of PTAC's accreditation standards, activities, and services

Highlights of the May 4-5, 2016 PTAC Meeting

PTAC held its third, biannual meeting May 4-5, 2016 in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition to reviewing survey reports and applications for new program directors, members also discussed key issues related to program growth, collaborations, potential opportunities for underserved populations, ongoing updates to the guidance document, and communication of accreditation decisions. The next PTAC meeting will be held October 24-25, 2016 at ASHP headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland.

Program Accreditation/Reaccreditation

The Commission reviewed survey site visit reports for 16 new programs and 11 previously accredited programs seeking reaccreditation. Midterm reports (10) and special case reports (20) were also reviewed along with 44 applications for new program directors. As of the date of the meeting, 272 programs are in the accreditation process which includes accredited programs and programs in candidate status.

Congratulations to the following programs for meeting the accreditation standards for pharmacy technician training programs!

Initial Accreditation

- Remington College-Mobile; Mobile, Alabama
- Walmart Stores, Inc.; Bentonville, Arkansas
- Therapeutic Research Center; Stockton, California
- Fast Response Safety Training Center, Inc. DBA Fast Response School of Health Care; Berkeley, California
- Everest College - Brandon Campus; Tampa, Florida
- Everest University - Lakeland Campus; Lakeland, Florida
- Virginia College - Fort Pierce; Fort Pierce, Florida
- Everest College - Atlanta West; Atlanta, Georgia
- Vincennes University; Vincennes, Indiana
- Ashland Community and Technical College; Ashland, Kentucky
- Healthcare Training Institute; Kenner, Louisiana
- Fayetteville Technical Community College; Fayetteville, North Carolina
- Sierra Nevada Job Corps; Reno, Nevada
- Remington College - Fort Worth; Fort Worth, Texas
- Ross Medical Education Centers LLC – Morgantown; Morgantown, West Virginia
- Ross Medical Education Centers LLC – Charleston; Charleston, West Virginia

Reaccreditation

- Malcolm X College; Chicago, Illinois
- Pima Community College; Tucson, Arizona
- Modesto Junior College; Modesto, California
- Orange County Public Schools; Orlando, Florida

- Midwest Technical Institute - East Peoria; East Peoria, Illinois
- North Central Kansas Technical College; Hayes, Kansas
- Sullivan University; Louisville, Kentucky
- Tri-County Technical College; Pendleton, South Carolina
- Western Dakota Technical Institute; Rapid City, South Dakota
- Lamar State College - Orange; Orange, Texas
- College of the Mainland; Texas City, Texas

National Pharmacy Technician Workforce Survey

Research about pharmacy technicians is limited. In order to gain a better understanding of technician roles, training, job functions, and job satisfaction principal investigators Shane P Desselle, RPh, PhD, FAPhA (Touro-California) and Erin R. Holmes, PhD (University of Mississippi) developed a survey instrument that was distributed to technicians certified through Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). Objectives of the study were to:
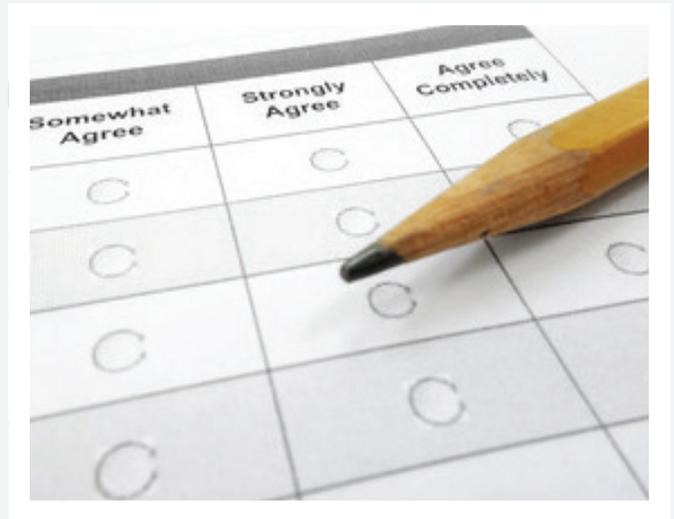
- Describe characteristics of CPhTs, their current job functions in various practice settings, and their reasons for becoming a technician
- Determine primary methods of training
- Determine the level of satisfaction with various intrinsic and extrinsic components of CPhTs' jobs; identify sources contributing most to that satisfaction
- Identify CPhTs' employer and profession commitment, along with their ensuing, anticipated career moves
- Identify sources of stress for CPhTs
- Identify relationships between CPhTs' job functions, satisfaction, commitment, stress, and reason for becoming a technician

The study was funded by ASHP on behalf of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC), the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB), and the Pharmacy Workforce Center (PWC). Publication of the study's findings is expected in Fall, 2016.

Pharmacy Technician Stakeholders Consensus Conference
February 14-16, 2017 Dallas, Texas

Representatives from PTCB, ASHP, and ACPE have formed a steering committee to guide the agenda for this important consensus conference. Members include Everett B. McAllister, MPA, RPh (CEO and Executive Director – PTCB); Janet A. Silvester, PharmD, MBA, FASHP (VP, Accreditation Services - ASHP); and Peter H. Vlasses, PharmD, DSc(Hon) (Executive Director – ACPE). A Stakeholder Advisory Committee for this conference has also been formed which includes the following representatives:

Jason Ausili, PharmD
Director, Pharmacy Affairs
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
(NACDS)

Malcolm Broussard, RPh
Executive Director
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

Al Carter, PharmD, MS
Senior Director, Pharmacy Regulatory Affairs
CVS Health

Charles E. Daniels, BS Pharm, PhD
Pharmacist-In-Chief & Associate Dean
University of California San Diego

Kenneth Mark Ey, RPh
Vice President of Operations
CARE Pharmacies Cooperative Inc.

Diane Halvorson, RPhTech, CPhT
Lead Pharmacy Technician
Vibra Hospital Fargo
Pharmacy Technician Member, North
Dakota State Board of Pharmacy

Tim Koch, RPh, PD, CHC
Sr Director, Pharmacy Practice Compliance
Walmart Corporate Office

Janet M. Liles, MS, CPHT
Executive Director
Pharmacy Technician Educators Council

Scott A. Meyers, RPh, MS, FASHP
Executive Vice President
Illinois Council of Health-System
Pharmacists

Matt Osterhaus
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
President 2014
Osterhaus Pharmacy

Jon Roth, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
California Pharmacists Association

Steve Rough, MS, RPh, FASHP
Director of Pharmacy
UW Health

Rafael Saenz, PharmD, MS, FASHP
Administrator, Pharmacy Svs, University of
Virginia Health System
Assistant Dean, VCU School of Pharmacy -
UVA Division

William Schimmel
Associate Executive Director
PTCB

The objective of this invitational conference is to develop consensus in the following areas:

- The necessity of public confidence in pharmacy's process for ensuring the competency of pharmacy technicians.
- The entry-level ("generalist") knowledge, skills, and abilities that all pharmacy technicians must have regardless of practice site.

- The definition of entry-level ("generalist") pharmacy technician practice with respect to (a) legally recognized scope of practice; (b) educational requirements; (c) training requirements; (d) certification requirements; and (e) state board of pharmacy registration or licensure.
- The desirability and feasibility of developing a process for recognizing competencies of pharmacy technicians beyond entry-level.
- The desirability and feasibility of minimizing variability among the states in the definition and regulation of pharmacy technicians.
- The entities that optimally should take responsibility for any changes in pharmacy's process for ensuring the competency of pharmacy technicians.

Invited conference attendees will represent all areas affecting pharmacy technician training including inpatient pharmacies, retail pharmacies, and regulatory bodies, among others.

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) Updates

CE Requirements

In January, 2016, PTCB implemented a change in continuing education (CE) recertification requirements for Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhTs), reducing the number of CE hours earned through college or university courses from 15 to 10. For more information regarding these changes please see *Your CE Requirements: What Will Change in 2016?*

As a reminder, in 2015 PTCB implemented a requirement for 20 pharmacy technician-specific CEs per each recertification cycle.

2020

By 2020, every new candidate for PTCB certification will be required to have successfully completed an ASHP/ACPE accredited education program. There are currently about 280,000 active PTCB certified pharmacy technicians. Approximately 587,000 certifications have been granted by PTCB since 1995.

Sterile Compounding Advanced Certification Task Force

PTCB has formed a special Task Force to develop an advanced certification program in sterile compounding. Work began last year and is ongoing.

National Pharmacy Technician Day

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 has been designated as National Pharmacy Technician Day. Please check PTCB's website for more information as the date approaches.

Highlights of the July 14-16, 2016 Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC) Meeting Charlotte, North Carolina

The overall goals for PTEC's annual meeting were to:

- Discuss the educational needs of pharmacy technicians in the evolution of pharmacy practice by assisting pharmacists to better maximize patient healthcare.
- Identify and discuss the impact of accreditation standards and regulations on pharmacy technician programs.
- Describe the art and science of teaching and learning within pharmacy technician education.

Each year at its annual conference, PTEC may present two awards - the Roy Kemp award, which honors the pharmacy technician educator of the year; and, the Phil Naut award, which honors the associate member of the year. This year, the Roy Kemp Award went to Sheri Roumell, BS, CPhT, RPT, program director for the Pharmacy Technology Program at Casper College in Casper, Wyoming. The Phil Naut Award was co-awarded to Jason P. Sparks, MEd CPhT, an experienced instructional and curriculum designer who has taught courses in pharmacy practice law, mathematics, and medical ethics; and, Lisa Lifshin, Director of Pharmacy Technician Accreditation and Residency Services, ASHP.

Absent from photo – Jason Sparks.

Accreditation Survey Preparation

The following information was excerpted from a presentation at the 2016 PTEC Annual Meeting entitled The Accreditation Experience: "Just Relax" by Harold Kornfuhrer, RPh., and Sheri Roumell, B.S., CPhT, RPT. The interactive presentation included many helpful tips from the presenters, both surveyors for accredited technician training programs, who suggested that the following information be available during the site visit:

Documents

- Strategic plan covering all standard requirements and evidence that advisory committee has reviewed the plan

- Advisory committee meeting minutes for the past 3 meetings
- Current Student files which include proof that information about the program was provided to them as an applicant, all milestones that prove 46 goals are being met in the didactic, simulated, and experiential portions of the program, all required evaluations and time attendance sheets
- Graduate files for past 3 years
- Executed experiential site affiliation agreements, site inspection forms
- Current Academic and Professional Forms for program director, all instructors, and experiential site coordinators for all experiential sites
- Textbooks, curriculum, and syllabi for all coursework

Program Components

- Training schedule that illustrates the minimum 600 clock hours of education and accurate breakdown of hours spent in each category
- Simulation laboratory open and available for tour with sample simulation activities displayed
- Evidence that applicant has passed minimum requirements as established by the program for math and English proficiency
- Evidence of metrics and assessment for the 4 required elements of program effectiveness
- Example of certificate or diploma that is provided to graduates upon program completion

Understanding survey findings – the following definitions are used by surveyors to determine the level of a program's compliance with each accreditation standard:

- Full Compliance (FC)- the program is fully compliant with that standard and no changes must be made.
- Partial Compliance (PC)- the program is partially compliant with that standard and improvements and or changes need to be made.
- Non Compliance (NC)- the program is not compliant with that standard and changes must be implemented.

The next PTEC Annual Meeting will be held July 13-15, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Accreditation Regulations Refresher

Program Changes – What You Need to Do

In order to maintain accreditation status, accredited programs are required to notify ASHP's Vice President, Accreditation Services Office, of the following within 30 days of the change:
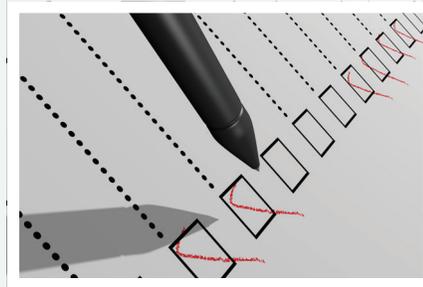
- Changes to the leadership in the pharmacy technician training program (i.e., changes in pharmacy technician training program director or administrator, name of organization, and change in accreditation status with another organization);
- Substantial changes to the content and construct of the program; and,
- Changes in organizational ownership and accreditation.

Any substantial change in the organization of a program or lack of timely notification may be considered justification for re-evaluation of the program and/or a site survey.

Withdrawal of Accreditation

Accreditation of a program may be withdrawn for any of the following reasons:

- Accredited programs that no longer meet the requirements of the applicable accreditation standard(s) shall have accreditation withdrawn;
- Accredited programs without a student in training for a period of 3 consecutive years shall have accreditation withdrawn at the beginning of the fourth year without a student;
- A program makes false or misleading statements about the status, condition, or category of its accreditation;
- An accredited program fails to submit periodic written status reports as requested;
- A program fails to submit appropriate annual accreditation fees as invoiced.

ASHP shall not withdraw accreditation without first notifying the pharmacy technician training program director of the specific reasons. The program shall be granted an appropriate period of time to correct the deficiencies. Withdrawal of program accreditation may occur at any point during a training session. The program shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Commission. If accreditation is withdrawn, to regain accreditation the program may submit a new application and must undergo re-evaluation. Programs may voluntarily withdraw from the accreditation process and/or forfeit accreditation at any time by notifying the Vice President, Accreditation Services Office, in writing. When notified, the Vice President, Accreditation Services Office, will report these programs to the Commission and the ASHP Board.

For a full overview of all regulations related to program accreditation, please see ASHP/ACPE Regulations on Accreditation of Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs.

Important Dates

National Pharmacy Technician Day: October 18, 2016

PTAC: October 24-25, 2016 at ASHP headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting: December 4-8, 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada

Pharmacy Technician Stakeholders Consensus Conference: February 14-16, 2017 Dallas, Texas

PTEC Annual Meeting: July 13-15, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada

Resources

Accreditation

ASHP Pharmacy Technician Practice and Policy

Accreditation Regulations, Standards, Guidance Document and Model Curriculum

Starting a Pharmacy Technician Training Program

Applying for Accreditation

Preparing for an Accreditation Survey

Governance

Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC)

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)

American Society of Health-system Pharmacists (ASHP)

Education and Workforce Development

Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC)

Pharmacy Workforce Center (PWC)

Comments and suggestions for upcoming Technician TABLET newsletter articles may be sent to asd@ashp.org