

August 6, 2019 Minutes – Board of Pharmacy Office, Concord NH
Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician Work Group

Attendees – John Genovese (NHBOP), Gary Merchant (NHBOP), Tina Genovese, Bob Stout, Stuart Tracy (NHACDS), Nate Sides (Hannaford), Amy Rice (Cheshire Medical), Michael Bullek (NHBOP), Anne Fellows (NACDS), Brett Conroy (Hannaford), Roy Courchaine (Rite Aid), Maryann Cooper (NHPA), Breanne Piazik (Elliott Hospital), Jason Roy (Rite Aid), Kaitlyn Simoneau (Shaws/Osco), Stephanie Bleau (Rite Aid), Kate Chisholm (Rite Aid), Carolyn Nadworny (Wal-Mart), Rachel Sahagun (Walgreens), Melissa Wilson (Cheshire Medical)

Via phone: Ann Burns (APhA), Ryan Burke (PTCB), Janet Silvester (ASHP), Allie Jo Simpson (NASPA), Carmen Catizone (NABP), Rob Geddes (Albertson's), Judy Neville (AAPT),

This was the initial meeting of a board of pharmacy work group created to develop rules related to a new category of licensure, Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician or LAPT. The group met from 9AM until Noon with several attending via tele-conference.

Group reached consensus on the following requirements:

1. High School graduate or GED
2. Minimum age of 21. PTCB new advanced technician certification requires 3 years of work experience as a certified technician and board rules require a person to be at least 18 years of age to work as a certified technician. Ann Burns raised a question regarding liability insurance, that is, does liability coverage have any age requirement. Gary will follow up with Pharmacist Mutual for additional information.
3. Work experience of at least 2,000 hours in 3 years performing duties of a certified technician. The group defaulted to this requirement based on Canada requires 2,000 worked hours within a 3-year period of time, and PTCB will require 3 years of work experience to become certified as an Advanced Practice Pharmacy Technician.
4. Law exam - a requirement for licensure needs to include a law exam. There was discussion of using the same NABP law exam, the MJPE, used by pharmacists. Reason: A significant part of the scope of practice will be rooted in compliance to Federal and State laws and regulation, comparable to a pharmacist. NH is working with NABP regarding potential to utilize the exam. The parties will be conducting a pre-law exam with current certified technicians to assess their law knowledge to guide future discussions.
5. Knowledge exam - a requirement for licensure needs to include an exam to measure knowledge required to assume and responsibly perform duties within the scope of practice allowed by licensure.
6. Paths to licensure - apprenticeship or formal education. Consensus was to develop both paths and for both paths to continue for a period of time. Should the board elect to transition to only a formal, structured educational path, there should be a grandfather period for existing certified technicians.
7. Formal, Structured Educational Path – this path could lead to either an Associate Degree or Diploma. Janet Sylvester mentioned that other disciplines as Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Dental have use assistants. ASHP has some information what other disciplines use for assistants and will forward the information to John Genovese to share with the group for next meeting.

8. A question was raised regarding PTCB Advanced Pharmacy Technician certification related to a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician - will the two be interchangeable. Although both utilize similar terminology, one is a state license with a defined scope of practice, and the other provides certification of knowledge of a subject matter.
9. CE requirements - should be the same number of hours as a pharmacist, 15 hours per year, or 30 hours every 2 years. A suggestion was made to require 2 hours of law and 2 hours of safety. ACPE has two levels of CE - pharmacist and technician. Most ACPE pharmacist CE program focuses on clinical, thus the group recommended licensed technicians be required to take technician CE programs.

Future meetings will focus on Scope of Practice, refining requirements based on the scope of practice, and discussion on apprenticeship and educational programs.

Follow ups:

1. Gary Merchant to contact pharmacy liability insurance regarding any age requirement to obtain a policy.
2. Janet Silvester will email John Genovese information regarding what other healthcare disciplines use for educational requirements.
3. Gary Merchant will create a list of duties which may now be done by a registered or certified technician and include the additional duties a licensed may be allowed to perform.
4. Gary Merchant and John Genovese will reach out to Julie Hegle of the Vermont Hi-Tech regarding an apprenticeship program.
5. Ryan Burke will forward information regarding the new PTCB Advanced Certifications.
6. Anne Fellows will inquire what states require ASHP/ACPE technician certification.

Submitted by Gary Merchant