

Chapter 246-901 WAC

PHARMACY ANCILLARY PERSONNEL

WAC

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DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

246-901-110	Level A experience equivalency. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-110, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91; Order 141, § 360-52-100, filed 12/9/77.] Repealed by 00-15-081, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW.
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WAC 246-901-010 Definitions. (1) "Consultation" means:

(a) A communication or deliberation between a pharmacist and a patient, a patient's agent, or a patient's health care provider in which the pharmacist uses professional judgment to provide advice about drug therapy.

(b) A method by which the pharmacist meets patient information requirements as set forth in WAC 246-869-220.

(2) "Dispense" as defined in RCW 18.64.011(16).

(3) "Intravenous admixture preparation" means the preparation of a drug product that combines two or more ingredients using aseptic technique and is intended for administration into a vein.

(4) "Parenteral" as defined in WAC 246-871-010.

(5) "Pharmacy technician specialized function" means certain tasks normally reserved to a pharmacist according to WAC 246-863-095 that may be performed by a pharmacy technician who has met board requirements.

(6) "Prescription" as defined in RCW 18.64.011(8).

(7) "Responsible manager" as defined in WAC 246-869-070.

(8) "Unit-dose" and "unit-dose drug distribution system" as defined in WAC 246-865-010.

(9) "Unit-dose medication cassettes" means containers for a patient's medications into which each individually packaged and labeled drug is placed.

(10) "Verification" means the pharmacist has reviewed a patient drug order initiated by an authorized prescriber, has examined the patient's drug profile, and has approved the drug order after taking into account pertinent drug and disease information to insure the correctness of the drug order

for a specific patient. The verification process must generate an audit trail that identifies the pharmacist. The pharmacist who performs the verification of a drug order is responsible for all reports generated by the approval of that order. The unit-dose medication fill and check reports are an example.

(11) "Immediate supervision" means visual and/or physical proximity to a licensed pharmacist to ensure patient safety.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-010, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.050. 94-08-097, § 246-901-010, filed 4/6/94, effective 5/7/94.]

WAC 246-901-020 Pharmacy ancillary personnel utilization. (1) Pharmacy technicians may perform certain nondiscretionary and specialized functions consistent with their training in pharmacy practice while under the immediate supervision of a licensed pharmacist.

(2) The discretionary tasks reserved to a pharmacist are listed in WAC 246-863-095.

(3) Unless authorized as a specialized function according to WAC 246-901-035, the pharmacy technician shall assist a pharmacist in the performance of all tasks except those reserved to a pharmacist in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Entry of a new medication order into the pharmacy computer system and retrieval of the drug product to fill a prescription are tasks reserved to the pharmacist and pharmacy technician.

(5) The pharmacy assistant may assist a pharmacist in performance of all tasks except those reserved to the pharmacist and pharmacy technician.

(6) Pharmacy ancillary personnel may record or provide medication data when no interpretation is required.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-020, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.050. 94-08-097, § 246-901-020, filed 4/6/94, effective 5/7/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64A.020 and 18.64A.030. 92-12-035 (Order 277B), § 246-901-020, filed 5/28/92, effective 6/28/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-020, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91; Order 141, § 360-52-010, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-030 Technician education and training. (1) Applicants must obtain education and training from one of the following:

(a) Formal academic pharmacy technician training program approved by the board.

(b) On-the-job pharmacy technician training program approved by the board.

(2) The minimum educational prerequisite for entering a training program shall be high school graduation or G.E.D.

(3) Applicants must pass a board-approved national standardized pharmacy technician certification examination.

(4) An out-of-state pharmacy technician applicant must meet the same requirements as a pharmacy technician trained

in this state. The board must approve training programs approved in other states.

(5) Applicants whose academic training has been obtained in foreign countries shall meet certification requirements as listed below:

(a) Foreign pharmacy school graduates. Board approval of program completed for the degree.

(b) Foreign medical school graduates. Board approval of program completed for the degree.

(c) All foreign graduates for whom English is not the primary language shall provide proof of receiving a score of at least 173 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and a score of 50 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) prior to certification.

(d) Foreign trained applicants must earn 520 hours of supervised experience in an approved pharmacy technician training program.

(6) Prior to performing specialized functions, pharmacy technicians shall complete specialized training and meet proficiency criteria set forth by the board.

(a) Unit-dose medication checking. The training proficiency criteria requires demonstration of 99% accuracy in medication checking.

(b) Intravenous admixture preparation. The training proficiency criteria requires demonstration of 100% accuracy in intravenous admixture preparation of a representative sample of preparations provided by the facility using aseptic technique.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and 18.64A.020. 08-22-005, § 246-901-030, filed 10/24/08, effective 1/1/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-030, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.050. 94-08-097, § 246-901-030, filed 4/6/94, effective 5/7/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-030, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91; Order 141, § 360-52-020, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-035 Pharmacy technician specialized functions. A pharmacy technician who meets established criteria for employment, experience, training and demonstrated proficiency may perform specialized functions. The criteria shall be specified in the utilization plan of the pharmacy for pharmacy technicians performing specialized functions required in WAC 246-901-100 (2)(b). Records of pharmacy technician training and of demonstration of proficiency shall be retrievable within seventy-two hours upon request of the board. Specialized functions include the following:

(1) Unit-dose medication checking. Following verification of the drug order by a licensed pharmacist, a pharmacy technician may check unit-dose medication cassettes filled by another pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern in pharmacies serving facilities licensed under chapter 70.41, 71.12, 71A.20 or 74.42 RCW. No more than a forty-eight hour supply of drugs may be included in the patient medication cassettes and a licensed health professional must check the drug before administering it to the patient.

(2) Intravenous admixture and other parenteral preparations. A pharmacy technician may prepare intravenous admixtures and other parenteral drugs. A licensed pharmacist must check each parenteral drug prepared by a pharmacy technician.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-035, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.050. 94-08-097, § 246-901-035, filed 4/6/94, effective 5/7/94.]

WAC 246-901-040 Limitations, trainees. An individual enrolled in a training program for pharmacy technicians will perform technician functions only under the immediate supervision of a pharmacist preceptor or a delegated alternate pharmacist.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-040, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00; 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-040, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91; Order 141, § 360-52-030, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-050 Technician program approval.

(1) Program standards. The board will establish standards for judging pharmacy technician training programs.

(2) Approval. In order for a program for training pharmacy technicians to be considered for approval by the board, the director of the program, who shall be a pharmacist, shall submit to the board a description of the course of training offered, including subjects taught, method of teaching, and practical experience provided. The director of the program shall also advise the board concerning the skills and knowledge which are obtained in the course, and the method by which the proficiency of the pharmacy technician in those skills and knowledge is tested or ascertained. The board may require such additional information from program sponsors.

(3) Program change. The director shall request board approval before implementing any significant program change.

(4) Reapproval. The director shall submit each approved program to the board for reapproval every five years.

(5) Registry. The board will maintain a registry of approved programs. Interested persons may request a copy of the registry by contacting the board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-050, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00; 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-050, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91; Order 141, § 360-52-040, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-060 Technician certification. To become certified as a pharmacy technician, an individual must apply to the board for certification. The application must include:

(1) A statement signed by the program director verifying the applicant has successfully completed the board-approved pharmacy technician training program.

(2) Proof of passing a board-approved national standardized pharmacy technician certification examination.

It is the responsibility of the pharmacy technician to maintain a current mailing address with the board as required by chapter 246-12 WAC. Pharmacy technicians shall notify the board of any change of mailing address within thirty days of the change.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and 18.64A.020. 08-22-005, § 246-901-060, filed 10/24/08, effective 1/1/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-060, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005. 93-17-097 (Order 387B), § 246-901-060, filed 8/17/93, effective 9/17/93. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-060, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91. Statutory Authority:

RCW 18.64A.030. 88-14-043 (Order 217), § 360-52-050, filed 6/30/88; Order 141, § 360-52-050, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-065 Expired technician license. (1) If the technician license has expired for five years or less, the practitioner must meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) If the license has expired for over five years, the practitioner must:

(a) Complete certification requirements within one year of application to the board for certification;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(3) If the practitioner has been in an active practice in another United States jurisdiction with duties that are substantially equivalent to a pharmacy technician in Washington state, the practitioner must:

(a) Submit verification of active practice from any other United States jurisdiction;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-065, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. 98-05-060, § 246-901-065, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005. 93-17-097 (Order 387B), § 246-901-065, filed 8/17/93, effective 9/17/93.]

WAC 246-901-070 Pharmacy assistant utilization.

Pharmacy assistants may perform, under the general supervision of a licensed pharmacist, all duties except those reserved to the pharmacist and the pharmacy technician.

Pharmacy assistants may:

(1) Prepackage and label drugs for subsequent use in prescription dispensing operations.

(2) Count, pour, and label for individual prescriptions.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-070, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00; 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-070, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64A.030. 88-14-043 (Order 217), § 360-52-060, filed 6/30/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005(11) and 18.64A.030. 80-02-113 (Order 153, Resolution No. 1/80), § 360-52-060, filed 1/28/80. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.50.201. 79-04-048 (Order 147, Resolution No. 3-79), § 360-52-060, filed 3/27/79; Order 141, § 360-52-060, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-080 Pharmacy assistant registration.

(1) Training. No formal training or educational program will be required by the board, and there will be no age or educational restrictions. The supervising pharmacist shall thoroughly instruct the pharmacy assistant in the limitations of the functions he or she may perform.

(2) Registration of pharmacy assistants. Any person desiring registration as a pharmacy assistant shall apply to the board for registration on forms to be supplied by the board. The fee for registration will be included in the fee for authorization to utilize the services of pharmacy ancillary personnel.

(3) It is the responsibility of the pharmacy assistant to maintain a current mailing address with the board as required by chapter 246-12 WAC. Pharmacy assistants shall notify the board of any change of mailing address within thirty days of the change.

(4) A pharmacy assistant registration must be renewed every two years on the assistant's birthdate. The fee for

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renewal is included in the fee the pharmacy pays to utilize pharmacy ancillary personnel.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-080, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00; 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-080, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91; Order 141, § 360-52-070, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-090 Identification. All pharmacy ancillary personnel working within the pharmacy and having contact with patients or the general public shall wear badges or tags clearly identifying them as pharmacy assistants or technicians.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-090, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00; 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-090, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91; Order 141, § 360-52-080, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-100 Board approval of pharmacies utilizing pharmacy ancillary personnel and specialized functions.

(1) Application. All licensed pharmacies may apply on a form supplied by the board for permission to utilize the services of pharmacy ancillary personnel.

(2) Utilization plan for pharmacy technicians.

(a) General. The application for approval must describe the manner in which the pharmacy technicians will be utilized and supervised, including job descriptions, task analysis or similar type documents that define the duties performed and the conditions under which they are performed, number of positions in each category, as well as other information as may be required by the board. The board will be notified of all changes to the utilization plan. A copy of the utilization plan must be maintained in the pharmacy.

(b) Specialized function. The utilization plan for pharmacy technicians performing specialized functions. The utilization plan must include:

(i) The criteria for selection of pharmacy technicians to perform specialized functions;

(ii) A description of the methods of training and of initial demonstration of proficiency;

(iii) A copy of the part of the section of the pharmacy's quality assurance plan related to pharmacy technician specialized functions;

(iv) Other information that may be required by the board.

(c) To gain approval for specialized functions, a pharmacy must follow board-approved guidelines regarding pharmacy technician training, implementation and evaluation.

(3) Utilization plan for pharmacy assistants. The application for approval shall list the job title or function of the pharmacy assistant.

(4) The board may give conditional approval for pilot or demonstration projects for innovative applications in the utilization of pharmacy ancillary personnel.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-100, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.050. 94-08-097, § 246-901-100, filed 4/6/94, effective 5/7/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-100, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64A.030. 88-14-043 (Order 217), § 360-52-090, filed 6/30/88; Order 141, § 360-52-090, filed 12/9/77.]

WAC 246-901-120 AIDS prevention and information education requirements. Pharmacy technician and assistant

applicants must complete four clock hours of AIDS education as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 8.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-120, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. 98-05-060, § 246-901-120, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-120, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005. 89-04-015 (Order 222), § 360-52-110, filed 1/23/89.]

WAC 246-901-130 Pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratio. (1) A standard ratio of one pharmacist to a maximum of three technicians is established for each licensed pharmacy.

(2) The pharmacist must be actively practicing pharmacy.

(3) In determining which pharmacists may be included in the calculation of the ratio, the board will consider approval of pharmacy technician utilization plans which include all pharmacists within the pharmacy who are engaged in the actual practice of pharmacy. When the pharmacy provides service to inpatients of a hospital or extended care facility, pharmacists who are practicing pharmacy outside of the confines of the licensed pharmacy (for example, performing nursing unit inspections, reviewing charts, consulting with health professional staff) may be included in the ratio, if:

(a) There are sufficient numbers of pharmacists within the pharmacy to properly supervise the work of the pharmacy technicians;

(b) The pharmacy is not open to the public;

(c) The medications are being checked by another health professional before being given to the patient;

(d) Drug orders are not dispensed from the pharmacy without being checked by a licensed pharmacist or pharmacy intern except for board-approved pharmacy technician specialized functions provided a pharmacy technician may check unit-dose medication cassettes.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-130, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.050. 94-08-097, § 246-901-130, filed 4/6/94, effective 5/7/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005 and chapter 18.64A RCW. 91-18-057 (Order 191B), recodified as § 246-901-130, filed 8/30/91, effective 9/30/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005. 91-11-040 (Order 169B), § 360-52-120, filed 5/10/91, effective 6/10/91.]

WAC 246-901-140 Pharmacy services plan. A pharmacy may use more pharmacy technicians than prescribed by the standard ratio if the board approves the pharmacy's pharmacy services plan.

(1) The pharmacy services plan shall include, at a minimum, the following information: Pharmacy design and equipment, information systems, workflow, and quality assurance procedures. In addition, the pharmacy services plan shall demonstrate how it facilitates the provision of pharmaceutical care by the pharmacy.

(2) The board may require additional information to ensure appropriate oversight of pharmacy technicians before approving a pharmacy services plan.

(3) The board may give conditional approval for pilot or demonstration projects.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.64.005, chapter 18.64A RCW. 00-15-081, § 246-901-140, filed 7/19/00, effective 8/19/00.]