Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) Frequently Asked Questions

Stay up to date on changes from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)...and where Therapeutic Research Center comes in to meet your needs.

Q. What changes will PTCB require for initial certification?

A. By 2014, all new candidates taking the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) must pass a background check. For technicians recertifying today, no background check is required.

By 2020, all new candidates taking the PTCE must complete an ASHP-accredited pharmacy technician program. Pharmacy Technicians University is currently exploring ASHP-accreditation with a goal of achieving national accreditation before 2020 to meet this need. For technicians seeking certification today, Pharmacy Technicians University is a great way to prepare for the PTCE.

Q. What changes will PTCB require for recertification?

A. By 2014, 1 hour of the 20 required hours of CE is required to be on medication safety. This is in addition to the 1 hour of law CE that is already required. Pharmacy Technician’s Letter already provides several hours of law and medication safety CE for technicians.

By 2015, all 20 required hours have to be from CE developed specifically for pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy Technician’s Letter has provided ACPE-accredited technician-specific CE since 2007. You can get all of the technician-specific CE you need to maintain your certification from Pharmacy Technician’s Letter, including medication safety and law CE. Find out more by clicking on this link: Subscribe Today!

By 2015, only 5 CE hours can be acquired through in-services. By 2018, NO CE hours can be acquired through in-services. In-services are not considered standardized CE programs, however Pharmacy Technician’s Letter is a provider of ACPE-accredited, standardized CEs.

By 2016, only 10 CE hours can be acquired through college or university coursework. College coursework is geared toward a broad academic audience, while Pharmacy Technician’s Letter CEs are specific to you and your practice.

Q. Can I take pharmacist CEs to recertify?

A. By 2015, only CEs developed specifically for pharmacy technicians will be accepted for recertification. You can get all of the technician-specific CE you need to maintain your certification from Pharmacy Technician’s Letter, including medication safety and law CE. Find out more by clicking on this link: Subscribe Today!
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Q. Is law CE still required for recertification?

A. Yes, currently 1 hour of law CE is required for recertification and will continue to be required. *Pharmacy Technician's Letter* has been meeting this requirement since 2007.

Q. Do CEs have to be accredited by ACPE to recertify?

A. No, PTCB does not require the pharmacy technician-specific CEs to be accredited by ACPE; however, some states do require technician CE to be accredited by ACPE. You can maintain your certification with ACPE-accredited, technician specific CE from *Pharmacy Technician’s Letter*. Find out more by clicking on this link: [Subscribe Today!](#)