

History of Pharmacy Technicians in Texas

Summary

September 1, 1981 – Texas Pharmacy Act amended to recognize the persons who assist pharmacists. These individuals are called “supportive personnel” and defined as: those individuals utilized in pharmacies whose responsibility it shall be to provide nonjudgmental technical services concerned with the preparation and distribution of drugs under the direct supervision of and responsible to a pharmacist.

November 5, 1982 – Board adopts first rules that include requirements for “supportive personnel.”

- Training & Qualifications:
 - Supportive personnel must be qualified and trained to perform the tasks assigned to them.
- Duties:
 - Prepare Rx labels.
 - Initiate and receive refill authorization requests.
 - Prepackage drugs.

September 14, 1988 – Board adopts rules to place a maximum ratio (2:1) on the number of supportive personnel a pharmacist is allowed to supervise in Class A pharmacies. (Note: Texas Pharmacy Act prohibits the Board from establishing a ratio in Class C pharmacies).

March 21, 1996 – Qualifications. Rules amended to require all supportive personnel:

- Employed after March 1, 1996, must have a high school degree or be enrolled in a high school program.
- To have taken and passed the PTCB certification examination by January 1, 2001.

September 1, 1997 – Texas Pharmacy Act amended to change the designation from **supportive personnel to pharmacy technicians** and give the Board the authority to determine and issue standards for recognition and approval of pharmacy technician training programs. The Board was also given the authority to register pharmacy technicians, but the agency was not funded to begin this registration.

September 1, 1999 – Texas Pharmacy Act amended to give the Board the authority to register pharmacy technicians beginning January 1, 2001. (Note: No funding was provided with the passage of this bill therefore the Board did not begin the registration of pharmacy technicians on January 1, 2001.)

September 16, 1999 – The ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians may be 1:3 if one of the technicians is certified.

September 1, 2003 – The Board of Pharmacy’s appropriation for the fiscal year FY2001-2003 included funding to begin registration of Pharmacy Technicians.

February 23, 2004 – Board registers first pharmacy technician.

September 1, 2005 – Texas Pharmacy Act amended to give the Board the authority to register pharmacy technician trainees.

October 2006 – Board begins pharmacy technician trainee registration program.

September 18, 2007 – The ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees may be 1:3, provided at least one of the three is a pharmacy technician. The ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technician trainees may not exceed 1:2.

Pharmacy Technician Ratios in Other States

Ratio in Outpatient Setting	# of States
None	16
2:1	11
3:1	14
4:1 and greater	8



1201 Ellen Trout Drive

Lufkin, TX 75904

4/30/13

Texas State Board of Pharmacy,

Brookshire Brothers operates close to 70 pharmacies in the State of Texas. Brookshire Brothers supports the movement to expand pharmacist to technician ratios to allow for greater utilization of pharmacy technicians. Pharmacist to technician ratios is an antiquated and arbitrary model that is becoming no longer appropriate in today's changing pharmacy practice settings. In today's reformed pharmacy practice setting, the work environment is evolving to be a non-standard setting in pharmacy. Not all of our pharmacies conduct business in a standard manner for just dispensing prescriptions only. Many pharmacies today perform MTM, do nursing home blister packs, fill hospice, compound prescriptions, bill Medicare Part B, stock DME and diabetic products, perform immunizations, deliver prescriptions, recommend OTC medications, while dispensing and counseling every day prescription orders. Technology in pharmacy has also progressed with electronic processing, IVR, robotics, will call bin management systems at pick-up, pharmacists counseling with IPADS, etc. Eliminating the arbitrary ratios will allow pharmacies to maximize the use of pharmacy technicians to perform non-discretionary tasks to allow pharmacists to perform more professional services they are trained to do to enhance quality patient care. Enhanced times for pharmacists to counsel can lead to better compliance and patient safety to reduce healthcare costs and produce better outcomes. Pharmacy is demanding today more pharmacist involvement in MTM and disease management programs as well. Pharmacists should be able to use their sound professional judgment to determine how many well trained qualified technicians their individual business may require allowing them still to safely supervise to meet the daily needs of their diverse patient base.

Sincerely,

Keith Moseley R. Ph.

Keith Moseley R.Ph.

Pharmacy District Director

936-634-8155 Ext. 4526