

Institute for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians

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July 2, 2008

Gay Dodson, R.Ph.
Executive Director/Secretary
Texas State Board of Pharmacy
William P. Hobby Building
Tower 3, Suite 600
333 Guadalupe Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Dodson,

I am writing you in follow-up to the past meetings between ICPT staff, the Texas Board of Pharmacy and NABP. It is my understanding that from the February 2007 Board Meeting, a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Brimberry, Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. High was charged with further evaluation of the psychometric soundness of the Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT®). Since my correspondence with you one year ago, I have had several conversations with Dr. Carmen Catizone of NABP in regard to the evaluation of our program. Dr. Catizone and I agreed to a third party evaluation of the program to satisfy NABP's need. We further discussed NCCA accreditation as a means to achieve that goal, most recently at the NABP meeting in Baltimore.

ICPT is pleased to report that the ExCPT was awarded NCCA accreditation in June 2008 for a five-year period. We respectfully request that the subcommittee or perhaps the full Board recognize that NCCA accreditation satisfactorily demonstrates that the ExCPT is, indeed, psychometrically sound and approve the ExCPT for use in Texas.

The subcommittee and the Board may consider the following points that include information received since we last presented to the Board:

- The ExCPT has now achieved third party recognition that it meets the standards for the certification industry as defined by NCCA. The value of NCCA accreditation was cited recently by NABP in their April 2008 memo to the Boards of Pharmacy. In this memo, NABP recognizes NCCA accreditation as an independent audit by certification experts and ensures that a certification program adheres to current standards of practice in the certification industry.

- It is common for industries, including health care, to have competing certification programs. Competition leads to better services, lower costs, more innovation and more convenience.
- The major financial partners of the PTCB exam have all publicly recognized that there can and should be competition among pharmacy technician certification programs.
- Many employers and state boards of pharmacy have already scrutinized and recognized the ExCPT.
- The ExCPT offers significant advantages over the alternative. These advantages include:
 - More convenient locations (24 LaserGrade sites offering the ExCPT in Texas vs. 15 Pearson Vue sites offering the PTCE).
 - More test dates (over 300 test dates for the ExCPT versus 4 5-week windows for the PTCE).
 - Immediate results for the ExCPT versus up to several weeks for results for the PTCE.
 - Lower cost (\$95 for the ExCPT versus \$129 for the PTCE).

Thank you for considering this request. I will look forward to an opportunity to dialogue with the Texas Board of Pharmacy at their next meeting and look forward to approval of the ExCPT . I will arrange my schedule as necessary and would appreciate it very much if you would confirm a date and time in which we can be slotted into the agenda.

Thank you for assisting us.

Sincerely,



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