

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Question #1: If I employ a technician who is not certified by January 1, 2001, do I have to fire this employee on January 1, 2001?*

*Answer:* **NO.** Any pharmacy technician who is not certified by January 1, 2001, may become a technician-in-training and perform the duties of a technician-in-training. (See table below.)

*Question #2: If a pharmacy technician is granted an exemption from certification, is this exempt technician considered a certified technician?*

*Answer:* **NO.** Exemption from the certification requirements does not convey certification. In addition, an exempted technician may not perform any duty which may only be performed by a certified technician (see chart below for duties). Also, an exempted technician does not count as a certified technician when calculating the ratio of pharmacists to technicians. (Note the ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians is 1:2, but may be 1:3 if one of the pharmacy technicians is certified.)

*Question #3: I have an employee who performs the following duties. Is this employee required to be certified?*

- ! *answers the phone and takes refill numbers from patients;*
- ! *accepts prescriptions from the patient at the front counter;*
- ! *checks in orders, including orders containing prescription drugs and places the checked-in merchandise on the shelves, including prescription drugs; and*
- ! *hands the completed prescription to the patient and rings-up the sale.*

*Answer:* **NO.** Pharmacy technicians perform tasks directly related to the preparation of a prescription under the direct supervision of, and are responsible to, a pharmacist. Duties which are considered to be technician duties and the types of technicians who may perform the duties are listed in the table below.

Pharmacy Technician Duties	Who May Perform The Duty		
	Certified Pharmacy Technician	Technician-in-Training	Pharmacy Technician who is Exempted from Certification
Initiate and receive refill authorization requests	YES	YES	YES
Enter prescription data into a data processing system	YES	YES	YES
Take a stock bottle from the shelf for a prescription	YES	YES	YES
Prepare and package drug orders (i.e., count tablets/capsules, measure liquids and place them in the container)	YES	YES	YES
<b>Affix label to the prescription container (effective 1/1/01)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
Reconstitute medications	YES	YES	YES
Prepackage and label prepackaged drugs	YES	YES	YES

Pharmacy Technician Duties	Who May Perform The Duty		
	Certified Pharmacy Technician	Technician-in-Training	Pharmacy Technician who is Exempted from Certification
Load bulk unlabeled drugs into an automated dispensing system	YES	YES	YES
Compound non-sterile prescriptions	YES	YES	YES
Bulk compounding	YES	YES	YES
<b>Compound sterile pharmaceuticals (effective 1/1/01)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES (while in training)</b>	<b>NO</b>