



The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada

Le Bureau des examinateurs en pharmacie du Canada

Pharmacy Technician References and Learning Resources

[Review and Study Guides for Pharmacy Technicians](#)

[Pharmacy Practice References](#)

[Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Textbooks](#)

[Pharmacy Practice Textbooks](#)

[Compounding and Sterile Products Textbooks](#)

[Social, Behavioural and Administrative Pharmacy Textbooks](#)

[Websites Helpful for Pharmacy Practice](#)

[Other Professional Practice and Information Websites and Resources](#)

[Continuing Education \(CE\) Websites](#)

General Reference Information

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada does not endorse any preparatory course of any kind whatsoever, and any pretence by an individual or group in making such a claim is liable to legal prosecution.

It is the candidate's responsibility to utilize suitable reference materials and other resources in preparation for the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination. You should identify your personal learning needs in accordance with the examination blueprint (and consideration, if applicable, of feedback from any previous examination attempt).

It is important for pharmacy technicians seeking to become registered to continually stay up to date with current pharmacy technician practice issues. This includes staying current as new developments reach practice and the workplace. It is important for candidates to use current information (including most current textbook editions) when preparing for the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination.

From time to time, additional reference and learning resource suggestions may appear on the PEBC website.

In addition to your pharmacy technician training and personal learning, the ideal tool for acquiring Canadian pharmacy practice skills is to undertake "hands on" practice experience working in a Canadian pharmacy setting with direct patient care services. Practice experience will offer insights into the role of the pharmacy technician in day-to-day patient care in the field of pharmacy, the Canadian health system, legal, professional and ethical issues, technical and other practice scenarios.

Reference Listings

The following listings are intended as a general guide and cover a variety of topics and may be helpful to you as you prepare to take the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination. This list of references is oriented to the needs of pharmacy technicians and covers a wide variety of pharmacy topics, but it is **NOT** intended to serve as a detailed syllabus nor should it be assumed that these resources are the source of examination questions. You are strongly advised to be familiar with references that your provincial regulatory authority mandates for all pharmacies in your province. Listings are presented in the following sections:

- pharmacy technician review guides,
- pharmacy technician textbook references,
- internet resources

Review and Study Guides for Pharmacy Technicians:

The following review guides are broad in scope and cover many subject areas related to pharmacy technician education and pharmacy practice issues. Note that for American references, drug names and units of measure may be different in Canada. Federal law review questions must be avoided as they are based on American legislation, not Canadian.

Complete Review for the Pharmacy Technician, by Posey, American Pharmacists Association.

Manual for Pharmacy Technicians, by Bachenheimer, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Workbook for the Manual for Pharmacy Technicians, by McHugh, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Pharmacy Technician Certification Review and Practice Exam, by Lacher, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Certification Review for Pharmacy Technicians, by Reifman, Authorhouse.

The Pharmacy Technician: Foundations and Practices, by Johnston, Prentice Hall.

The Pharmacy Technician Skills-Building Manual, by Snipe, American Pharmacists Association.

The Pharmacy Technician Workbook and Certification Review, Morton Publishing Company.

Pharmacy Practice References (current editions)

The following references are published by The Canadian Pharmacists Association, Ottawa, ON (www.pharmacists.ca) and may be ordered online.

Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS), Canadian Pharmacists Association. Useful overview information is found on the front page “CPS At a Glance” and by checking the “Table of Contents” listing of information sections and topics.

Safe and Effective: The Eight Essential Elements of an Optimal Medication-Use System, ed. by MacKinnon, Canadian Pharmacists Association.

Textbook Reference Listings (current editions)

The listings shown here are textbook references some of which are utilized as resources in accredited Canadian pharmacy technician programs. Some of the references are also used by practising pharmacy technicians in their various workplace settings.

Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Textbooks:

The Human Body in Health and Illness, by Herlihy, Saunders.

Medical Terminology: An Illustrated Guide, by Cohen, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians, Moscou and Snipe, Mosby.

Core Concepts in Pharmacology, by Holland and Adams, Prentice Hall.

Pharmacy Practice Textbooks:

Complete Math Review for the Pharmacy Technician, by Hopkins, American Pharmacists Association.

Pharmaceutical Calculations, by Ansel, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Pharmacy Calculations for Technicians, by Ballington and Green, EMC Publishing.

Pharmaceutical Calculations for the Pharmacy Technician, by Lacher, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Martindale The Complete Drug Reference, by Sweetman, The Pharmaceutical Press.

Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Compounding and Sterile Products Textbooks:

Art, Science and Technology of Pharmaceutical Compounding, by Allen, American Pharmacists Association.

Applied Pharmaceutics in Contemporary Compounding, by Shrewsbury, Morton Publishing Company.
Compounding, The Pharmacy Technician Series, by Johnston, Prentice Hall.

Compounding: Guidelines for Pharmacies, by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Social, Behavioural and Administrative Pharmacy Textbooks:

Supervision: A Pharmacy Perspective, by Wick, American Pharmacists Association Publication.

An Introduction to the Pharmacy Profession, by Lovett *et al*, Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Communication Skills in Pharmacy Practice, ed. by Beardsley and Curtiss, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Focus on Safe Medication Practices, Rantucci *et al*, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

A Practical Guide to Contemporary Pharmacy Practice, by Thompson and Davidow, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Pharmacoethics A Problem-Based Approach, by Gettman and Arneson, CRC Press.

Ethical Issues in Pharmacy, by Weinstein, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Websites Helpful For Pharmacy Practice:

Health Canada www.hc-sc.gc.ca

From main page, use the search button at the top to find information on:

- Canada Health Act
- Food and Drugs Act and Regulations
- MedEffect
- Canada Vigilance Program
- Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) and Regulations (including Precursor Control Regulation)
- Narcotic Control Regulations
- Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations
- Marijuana Medical Access Regulations

From menu at left, click on Drugs and Health Products. In this section, you can find the Health Canada Drug Product Database (**DPD**) which contains product specific information on drugs approved for use in Canada. You can also click on the link to the Special Access Program (**SAP**) which provides access to non-marketed drugs for practitioners treating patients with serious conditions when conventional therapies are unsuitable.

Privacy Legislation www.priv.gc.ca

- See link for Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health www.cadth.ca

- Useful links include “Common Drug Review” and “Optimal Use”

National Association of Provincial Regulatory Authorities www.napra.ca

Useful links include the following:

- Pharmacy Practice and Regulatory Resources
- Federal Drug Legislation (and recent changes)
- National Drug Schedules (I, II and III)
- Pharmacy Technicians

PRA Websites

Please refer to your Provincial Regulatory Authority (PRA) website for further information on pharmacy technician resources.

Other Professional Practice and Information Websites and Resources:

Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians (CAPT)

www.capt.ca

Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP)

www.ccapp-accredit.ca

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

www.cshp.ca

Institute for Safe Medication Practices

www.ismp.org click on "Medication Safety Tools and Resources" section or www.ismp-canada.org for Canadian "Safety Bulletins"

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

www.nccmerp.org

Canadian Patient Safety Institute

www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca

Continuing Education (CE) Websites:

Canadian Healthcare Network www.canadianhealthcarenetwork.ca

This website provides access to online CE lessons through Pharmacy Gateway, including Tech Talk CE lessons.

Pharmacy Technician's Letter www.pharmacytechniciansletter.com

rx Briefcase www.rxbriefcase.ca

This website includes links to various CE learning resources, including Pharmacy Gateway and rxBriefCase.

When choosing to self-study using CE learning modules, it is important for a candidate to self-assess the wide range of available pharmacy practice learning topics and make selections to ensure that:

- 1) individual gaps in knowledge will be addressed, and
- 2) topics selected reflect those seen most frequently in patient care practice settings.