PTCB & the Exam

Who is PTCB?

The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board, Inc.

- Established in January 1995
- Founding Organizations:
  - American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA)
  - American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
  - Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHP)
  - Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA).

Goal

- Founded to create one consolidated voluntary national certification program for pharmacy technicians.
Responsibility for the development and implementation of policies related to voluntary national certification for pharmacy technicians.

Registration and Information

Candidate Guidebook

Test applications may be obtained by contacting the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board at 202-429-7576, or www.ptcb.org, or by contacting your state marketing partner.

Examination Format

100 Multiple-Choice Questions - (90 are scored and the remaining 10 are "pretested" for possible use on future exams).

Four choices are provided for each item, with only ONE designated as the correct or best answer.

The Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination is not structured by function, rather, questions from three functions are distributed randomly throughout the total examination.

It is to your advantage to answer every question on the examination since the final score is based on the total number of questions answered correctly.

Candidates will have two hours to complete the exam.

How Questions are Written

The exam samples candidates' knowledge and skill base for activities performed in the work of pharmacy technicians.

Each question is carefully written, referenced and validated to determine its accuracy and correctness.
A Certification Council and Pharmacy Technician Resource Panel (composed of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician educators, drawn from various practice settings and geographic areas) has developed the actual test items under the direction of PES (Professional Examination Service) testing experts.

In addition, the content framework of the entire examination is supported by a nationwide study of the work pharmacy technicians perform in a variety of practice settings including community and institutional pharmacies.

How Examination Content Is Determined

For purposes of national voluntary certification, pharmacy technicians are defined as individuals working in a pharmacy, who under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, assist in pharmacy activities not requiring the professional judgment of the pharmacist.

The Exam

The PTCB exam samples candidates' knowledge and skill base for activities performed in the work of pharmacy technicians. Functions and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians may be specifically defined by state rules and regulations as well as job-center policies and procedures.

The pharmacy technician is accountable to the supervising pharmacist, who is legally responsible by virtue of state licensure for the care and safety of patients served by the pharmacy. The pharmacy technician performs activities as the result of having certain knowledge and skills. These activities are characterized under three broad function areas:

- Assisting the pharmacist in serving patients - 66% of the examination
- Medication distribution and inventory control systems - 22% of the examination
- Operations - 12% of the examination

Who is the ICPT?

ICPT is the acronym used for the "Institute for Certification of Pharmacy Technicians".
The ExCPT exam also known as the “Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians,” is offered by the Institute for Certification of Pharmacy Technicians.

Association/Organizations endorsing the ExCPT include:

- American Association of Pharmacy Technicians
- National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
- National Organization for Competency Assurance
- National Pharmacy Technician Association
- Northwest Career Colleges Federation
- Pharmacy Technician Educators Council

**ExCPT Mission**

The mission of ExCPT is to recognize pharmacy technicians who are proficient in the knowledge and skills needed to assist pharmacists to safely, accurately and efficiently prepare and dispense prescriptions, and to promote high standards of practice for pharmacy technicians.

**Registration Information**

Per ExCPT: To be eligible to take the ExCPT, a candidate must: (1) be at least 18 years of age, (2) have a high school diploma or GED and (3) have not been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony. Candidates who have been convicted of or pled guilty to a drug-related felony are not eligible for certification. Candidates who were convicted of a nondrug-related felony occurring more than 7 years prior may petition to apply for the ExCPT. ICPT will review and make decisions on their status on a case-by-case basis. ICPT reserves the right to deny certification to any convicted felon[NM2].

The ExCPT is offered over 310 days per year at LaserGrade Testing Centers throughout the United States. Candidates may register by calling the LaserGrade toll-free number 1-800-211-2754 to arrange a test date, time and location. By providing a zip code, the candidate will be informed of the closest LaserGrade Testing Centers. Alternatively, these locations can be found on the Web at www.lasergrade.com. Exams can usually be taken within 24 to 48 hours of registration.
How do I register for the ExCPT test?

Call 1-800-211-2754 to register for the ExCPT at a location near you. Available sites can also be located by visiting www.Lasergrade.com and clicking on "Locate A Test Center." Next, select the ExCPT exam from the drop down menu, type in your zip code and click on "Find Testing Center." Then, call 1-800-211-2754 to register for the ExCPT.

The Exam

ExCPT Exam format is a secure computer-based exam. The number of questions on the exam is 110 multiple-choice questions with choices a-e. (100 are scored and the remaining 10 are pretested for possible use on future exams).

The length of the ExCPT exam is two hours.

The ExCPT exam questions fall into three general areas:

(1) Regulations and Technician Duties
(2) Drugs and Drug Products
(3) The Dispensing Process