

Legal Handbook for Pharmacy Technicians

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Dedication

To my friends and colleagues:

“Education is the best provision for old age.”
—Aristotle

Preface

The practice of pharmacy is growing steadily more complex. Medications have become increasingly essential to treating disease, and each year brings the introduction of ever more sophisticated drugs. Pharmacists have an essential role in medication use through counseling patients on proper medication use; advising physicians, nurses, and other health care providers on medication therapy management; and working collaboratively with physicians. It is no surprise that pharmacy is one of the most highly regulated health professions.

As pharmacists take on expanded roles in the health care system, the importance of pharmacy technicians is highlighted too. They have a key role in supporting pharmacists. Today, technicians do many of the tasks that only a few years ago were performed by the pharmacist.

Like the pharmacy profession itself, the laws and regulations of pharmacy are complex and changing. Each state has its own set of pharmacy laws and regulations. The sheer magnitude of all these laws and regulations makes it impossible to specifically address all of them. In this book, I have taken the approach of providing examples of state laws and regulations that illustrate those found in most states. This approach should provide a foundation for pharmacy technicians, or persons studying to become technicians, to understand how their particular state regulates pharmacy and pharmacy technicians. In the pages that follow, you will read about the laws and regulations applicable to pharmacy technicians such as whether pharmacy technicians must be registered as well as the qualifications to become a pharmacy technician.

For the pharmacy technician, understanding the laws and regulations of pharmacy is an essential part of doing your job and doing it well. The fact that pharmacy is so highly regulated is a clear sign of the importance of your job and the importance of the pharmacy profession to the health and well being of patients.

This edition has been updated through December 2010 to reflect minor updates throughout the book and to provide an initial analysis of the Patient Protection and Accountable Care Act of 2010, which was passed in March 2010.

*Diane Darvey
December 2010*

Disclaimer

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