

Pharmacy Technicians' Scope of Practice in Canadian Jurisdictions

December 2021

	Compounding			Dispensing and Receiving Prescriptions					Provide instructions on how to operate medical devices	Provide medication information to patients that does not require application of therapeutic knowledge	Conduct tests	Supervise a remote dispensing location under the supervision of a pharmacist who is not physically present	Administering: Includes parenteral and non-parenteral
	Develop a Master Formula or Compounding Protocol	Compound drugs according to a Master Formula or Compounding Protocol	Determine a beyond use date	Receive a verbal order (except for controlled substances)	Perform a technical check of a new prescription	Perform a technical check of a refill prescription	Perform a technical check of a controlled substance prescription	Transfer prescriptions					
AB		✓	✓ ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ¹		
BC	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
MB		✓		✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓ ¹		✓			✓	
NB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a	✓ ^{1, 2}
NL		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NS		✓		✓	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓ ¹	n/a	✓ ^{1, 2}
ON		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ¹	✓	✓ ^{1, 2}
PE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
SK		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
CF	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
NT	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
NU	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
QC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
YT	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

KEY

- ✓ Established in legislation and regulation or DND policy
- The jurisdiction does not currently regulate pharmacy technicians
- n/a Not applicable

- 1 Further limitations on types/classes of medication, patient groups or circumstances exist
- 2 Additional formal training/authorization from regulator required

Note: this chart is a summary only for the purpose of comparing jurisdictions and is not meant to replace provincial/territorial-specific information. Pharmacy professionals are expected to consult all relevant jurisdictional laws, regulations, standards and other rules and requirements related to scope of practice in their particular jurisdiction.

Definitions used to describe the pharmacy technicians' scope of practice

Note: pharmacy technicians are generally only allowed to carry out the activities listed below when a pharmacist is present.

Group	Category	Term and definition
Compounding		The combining or mixing together of two or more ingredients (of which at least one is a drug or pharmacologically active component) to create a final compounded preparation in an appropriate form for dosing, within the context of a prescriber-patient-pharmacy professional relationship. Compounding does not include mixing, reconstituting, or any other manipulation that is performed in accordance with the directions for use on the label of a drug approved by Health Canada. Compounding-like activities performed outside of a prescriber-patient-pharmacy professional relationship generally fall under the realm of manufacturing under the federal legislative framework and would not be considered pharmacy compounding (<i>HC Policy 0051 and NAPRA compounding standards - non-sterile and sterile</i>)
	Develop a Master Formula or Compounding Protocol	Generating a new Master Formula or Compounding Protocol (as defined in the NAPRA compounding standards) that describes the formula to be used and all of the steps to be followed in the compounding of a specific preparation, with which the compounder must comply. The formula or protocol must include all of the information required to prepare a particular compound. The development of a new Master Formula or Compounding Protocol is based on scientific data and includes appropriate references. (<i>NAPRA compounding standards</i>)
	Compound drugs according to a Master Formula or Compounding Protocol	Combining or mixing ingredients in accordance with a previously established Master Formula or Compounding Protocol to create a final compounded preparation.
	Determine a beyond use date	Establishing the date and time after which a compounded preparation cannot be used (beyond-use date) based on stability data and, where applicable, sterility data sourced from the available, recognized scientific literature, when one has not already been established (<i>NAPRA compounding standards</i>)
Dispensing and Receiving Prescriptions	Receive a verbal order (except for controlled substances) from a prescriber for a drug	Receiving and transcribing a verbal order for a drug or product from an authorized prescriber through verbal communication. Note: federal legislation and regulations do not currently allow pharmacy technicians to receive verbal orders for controlled substance prescriptions
	Perform a technical check of a new prescription	Determining the validity, clarity, completeness and authenticity of a new prescription and verifying the product and its prescription label against the original prescription using a systematic approach, including a verification of the patient, drug, dosage form, strength, route of administration, directions for use, prescriber, quantity, refill authorizations and auxiliary labels. A technical check DOES NOT include an assessment of the patient, verification of the pharmaceutical or therapeutic appropriateness of the prescription and/or suitability of the drug for the particular patient for its intended use, which can only be undertaken by the pharmacist.
	Perform a technical check of a refill prescription	Determining the validity, clarity, completeness and authenticity of a refill prescription and verifying the product and its prescription label against the refill prescription using a systematic approach, including a verification of the patient, drug, dosage form, strength, route of administration, directions for use, prescriber, quantity, refill authorizations and auxiliary labels. A technical check DOES NOT include an assessment of the patient, verification of the pharmaceutical or therapeutic appropriateness of the prescription and/or suitability of the drug for the particular patient for its intended use, which can only be undertaken by the pharmacist.
	Perform a technical check of controlled substance prescription	Determining the validity, clarity, completeness and authenticity of a new or refill prescription for a controlled substance and verifying the product and its prescription label against the prescription using a systematic approach, including a verification of the patient, drug, dosage form, strength, route of administration, directions for use, prescriber, quantity, refill authorizations and auxiliary labels. A technical check DOES NOT include an assessment of the patient, verification of the pharmaceutical or therapeutic appropriateness of the prescription and/or suitability of the drug for the particular patient for its intended use, which can only be undertaken by the pharmacist.
	Transfer prescriptions	Transfer of prescriptions that are legally allowed to be transferred from the pharmacy currently dispensing that medication to another licenced pharmacy. The pharmacy technician must ensure that the prescription can legally be transferred, is still current, is the most recent prescription available for the drug and that the prescription is inactivated following transfer to the other pharmacy
Provide instructions on how to operate medical devices		Providing instructions on how to use, operate, and maintain drug administration devices, monitoring devices, health aids and other medical devices, but not an explanation involving the interpretation of the results or value of the device or other information that requires patient assessment, clinical analysis or application of therapeutic knowledge.
Provide medication information to patients that does not require application of therapeutic knowledge		Providing information on medications that does not require patient assessment, clinical analysis or application of therapeutic knowledge, as defined in the <i>NAPRA Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada</i> .
Conduct tests		Conducting tests within the scope of practice in the pharmacy technician's jurisdiction in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, standards of practice and other rules. Depending on the jurisdiction, this can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the consent of the patient or his or her authorized agent, piercing a patient's dermis to demonstrate the proper use of lancet-type devices for the patient's self-care and education or for the patient's self-monitoring of his or her chronic disease. Conducting tests needed to properly manage drug therapy if delegated by a pharmacist who is authorized to order, receive, conduct and interpret tests to manage drug therapy
Supervise a remote dispensing location under the supervision of a pharmacist who is not physically present		"Remote dispensing location" means a place where drugs are dispensed or sold by retail to the public under the supervision of a pharmacist who is not physically present, and may be staffed with a pharmacy technician.
Administering		Administering a drug (substance) by parenteral or non-parenteral routes of administration.
1 Further limitations on types/classes of medication, patient groups or circumstances exist		The pharmacy technician's ability to perform the activity is restricted to certain circumstances set out by the pharmacy regulatory authority, such as patient groups, certain types/classes of medications, certain medical conditions or certain situations (e.g. accepting verbal prescriptions only if there has been no change in the prescription).
2 Additional formal training/authorization from regulator required		The pharmacy technician is required by the PRA to undergo and demonstrate completion of a training program approved by the PRA and/or must receive additional authorization from the PRA prior to undertaking these activities. This could include additional requirements for approved injection training program, an additional permit or an indication on the licence that additional training has been completed. This only includes training over and above that required for licensure. In other words, if training is mandatory for licensure, it is not noted in the chart.