



Pharmacy Technician Registration

Promoting accountability and safety in patient care

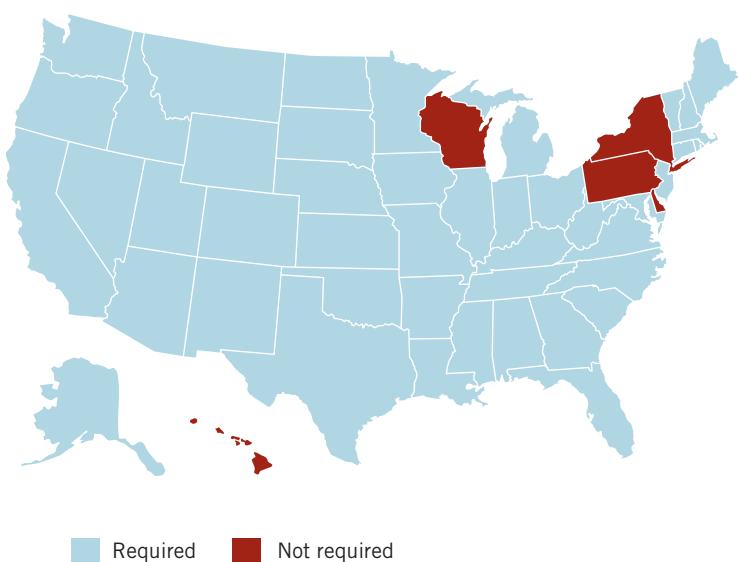
What would Pharmacy Technician Registration do?

Requiring all pharmacy technicians to register with the Department of Safety and Professional Services gives the Pharmacy Examining Board the ability to deny or conditionally grant registration, revoke, suspend, or limit the registration of a person registered as a pharmacy technician who has been found guilty of an offense, the circumstances of which substantially relate to the technician's work, or who has engaged in unprofessional conduct.

Why is registration needed?

Pharmacy technicians have access to and regularly interact with medications in the pharmacy, including controlled substances. Under current law, if a pharmacist violates the pharmacy practice act the Pharmacy Examining Board (PEB) can revoke, suspend, or limit their license. If a pharmacy technician violates this act, the PEB has no authority to penalize a technician. There is no mechanism that prohibits a pharmacy technician from practicing after a violation. If an employer chooses to terminate a technician after a violation, the technician can simply apply for and be hired elsewhere as a pharmacy technician.

45 STATES REQUIRE TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION



1. *Description and comparison of medication diversion in pharmacies by pharmacists, interns, and pharmacy technicians.* Draime, Juanita A. et al. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, Volume 58 , Issue 3 , 275 – 280.

What does a pharmacy technician do?

Under the supervision of a pharmacist, pharmacy technicians:

Retrieve and transport stock medication

Prepare unit dose carts for review by a pharmacist

Compound or reconstitute medications

Prepackage and label drugs for dispensing

Retrieve medication from stock, count or measure the medication, and place the medication in its final container

Transfer prescriptions to patients

Accept oral, written, and electronic prescription orders from prescribers

How will this combat the opioid epidemic?

With the opioid epidemic ravaging communities across Wisconsin, many pharmacies have seen employees, both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, divert medications for illicit purposes. Currently, if a pharmacist is found to have diverted medications the PEB can revoke or suspend the pharmacist's license. If a technician is found to have diverted medications, the PEB does not have these options.

- Pharmacy technicians are a healthcare professional with access to narcotics, yet they are not licensed or registered in Wisconsin.
- If a technician is fired for diversion, they can work in another pharmacy and gain easy access to narcotics. This bill creates an accountability mechanism for misconduct which presently does not exist, outside a background check.

A recent study found that pharmacy technicians diverted medications in 71.4% of medication diversion cases brought before state boards of pharmacy.¹