



Association of Pharmacy Technicians (UK) position on the 'ongoing competence' of Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technicians

Pharmacy Technicians, as part of the Pharmacy team, have a vital role to play in preventing medication errors, through intervention and safe practice. As a final accuracy check is the last step in the process prior to the medicine being given to the patient, APTUK advocates that responsibility and accountability determines that this check should only be undertaken by suitably qualified and competent registrants of the Pharmacy regulator.

Pharmacy technicians have been undertaking the role of final accuracy checking of 'clinically appropriate' dispensed items for a significant number years and this is now embedded across all sectors of pharmacy.

Initially this was as an extension to the core role and was prior to the introduction of mandatory registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

Subsequently, services have modernised, pharmacy technicians have become regulated, and it is their professional responsibility to demonstrate fitness to practise by maintaining competence. Linking training programmes to the 'Skills for Health National Occupational Standard *PHARM28.2016 'Undertake the final accuracy check of dispensed medicines and products'* not only provides consistency of practice but also supports the importance of reporting, sharing, and learning from errors.

Ongoing fitness to practice of the ACPT is assured through the professional registrant's responsibility to maintain their competence through the GPhCs revalidation framework. As registrant's of the GPhC, Pharmacy Technician professionals, are personally responsible for their own actions and APTUK emphasises awareness and use of the 'Professional Standards for the reporting, learning, sharing, taking action and review of incidents' developed by APTUK, RPS and the PFNI.

As registered pharmacy professionals who have successfully completed training and assessment in accuracy checking, there is no legal or regulatory requirement to reaccredit once qualified.

It is therefore, APTUK's position that it is no longer a requirement for qualified accuracy checking pharmacy technicians (ACPT) to submit reaccreditation evidence every two years to their education provider.

APTUK recommend that pharmacy technicians carrying out the task of final accuracy checking:

- have an up to date job description that includes the accuracy checking role
- should check regularly to maintain competence and confidence,



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- must always comply with employer's clinical governance requirements,
- should follow local processes and procedures and ensure they are practising within local standard operating procedures,
- should maintain a log of any errors they make and subsequent reflections / remediation,
- should understand and follow systems for reporting, sharing and learning from errors
- should complete CPD relating to their ACPT role in order to keep up to date with current practice and legislative requirements,
- and, as is a condition of GPhC registration, have adequate indemnity insurance.

The certificate awarded by the education provider demonstrates that the pharmacy technician met the learning outcomes and assessment criteria which should be mapped to the national occupational standards for accuracy checking. Employers may wish to check details with the education provider. They may also wish to set their own requirements for pharmacy professionals who are new to their organisation and intend to undertake accuracy checking of dispensed items.

APTUK are committed to enhancing patient safety culture through promoting quality systems in all of the services provided to patients.

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