

The role of pharmacy technician in the delivery of primary healthcare services

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Pharmacy Support Personnel

- "Pharmacy Support Personnel" means the various categories of support personnel as prescribed and registered as such in terms of the Pharmacy Act No 53 of 1974 (The Pharmacy Act).
- These include Pharmacist's Assistants (learner basic, basic, learner post basic and post basic) and Pharmacy Technician (trainee and qualified PT).
- PT Regulations (Education, Practice and Registration) still to be published



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Pharmacy Support Personnel

- may practice in both private and public sector pharmacies
- work under the direct personal supervision of a pharmacist
- may practice in 4 categories of pharmacies
 - community,
 - institutional (private or public hospital),
 - manufacturing and
 - wholesale pharmacy
- may practice in PHC clinic or “any other facility” approved by Council under the indirect personal supervision of a pharmacist.



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Why Pharmacy Technicians?

- Insufficient pharmacists
- In many PHC, nurses manage patients & medicine rooms,
 - resulting in stock outs, stock hoarding, expired medication and
 - Time demands impacts patient care
- PAPB can practice under the indirect supervision of a pharmacist in a PHC
 - Training does not fully support this responsibility
- PT will have more comprehensive training
 - Better supply chain management & control of medicines
 - Better patient care



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Why do we need the PT?

Roles are evolving & scope of practice is expanding

- Technicians play an integral role in supporting pharmacists in all practice settings
- Technicians allow the freedom to provide clinical services by pharmacists
- Technicians bridge the gap between pharmacist and Pharmacist's Assistants
- Technicians allow for scalability and sustainability of PHC services

Greater expectations from technicians

- Not just technical but patient focus
- Not just supervised buy supervisory



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In a Primary Health Care Setting...

The pharmacist



GAP!

The Pharmacy Technician



The pharmacist's assistant



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The pharmacy assistant





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Where does the PT fit into PHC?



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Pharmacy Technicians can assist with..

- medicine supply management
- manufacturing of medicines
- dispensing (supplying) of medicine to patients
- providing patient care
- managing pharmacy resources
- applying health and safety regulations, human rights, relevant medical and pharmaceutical law and ethics in the performance of their pharmaceutical duties, and
- housekeeping and administration relative to pharmaceutical services.



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PT in a Pharmacy

- Practice under the direct supervision of a pharmacist
- Supervise PAPBs and PABs
- Handle phase 2 of dispensing allowing pharmacist to do phase 1 (evaluation of Rx) and phase 3 (counselling of patient).
- Pharmacist can delegate phase 3 to PT under certain conditions
- Technical support in the provision of screening tests provided interpretation of results is done by a pharmacist



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PT in a PHC or 'other facility' (Reg 12)

- Work under indirect supervision of a pharmacist
- Supervise PAPB including checking of dispensing
- Manage the premises and personnel
- Practice in a multi-disciplinary practice – teamwork with nurses
- Liaise between supervising pharmacist and other PAs
- Dispensing according to PHC STG & EML
- Provide information to a patient/caregiver to optimise therapeutic outcomes of medicines dispensed to a patient from a PHC
- Deliver some public health education and services



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Role of the PT in delivery of PHC

Pharmacies are ideally positioned to provide primary health care.

Pharmacy support personnel are an essential part of an efficient and effective health care delivery system

Pharmacy Technician can bridge the gap between pharmacist and pharmacists' assistant

Allows the person with the most appropriate skills to be used for each task

The PT is 'a vital part of the pharmacy team'



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QUESTIONS



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