



How to Implement “Technician checking Technician” Regulation

What is it? This regulation allows a specially trained pharmacy technician to check the work of other pharmacy technicians in acute care facilities. This is limited specifically to floor/ward stock including automated dispensing cabinets and unit dose distribution systems (e.g. cassettes).

Status: Implementation Date has not yet been set. Regulations have been approved by the Board of Pharmacy and are currently being reviewed by Department of Consumer Affairs and Office of Administrative Law.

What is required?

- ✓ Written documentation of a clinical pharmacy program in the acute care facility
- ✓ Pharmacists who were previously checking be deployed to clinical services
- ✓ Policies/Procedures that designate the specialized and advanced training of the pharmacy technician performing the checking function
- ✓ An ongoing evaluation of the program and quality assurance measures
- ✓ Activity limited to floor/ward stock or unit dose distribution systems for patients whose orders have been previously reviewed and approved by a pharmacist
- ✓ Medications are filled and checked within the acute care facility
- ✓ Medications are limited for patients in the acute care facility

What is not allowed?

- The checking of medications for new orders
- The checking of IVs, compounded or repackaged medications not previously checked by a pharmacist
- The checking of patient specific IVs, compounded or bulk medications
- Transferring approval status to check the work of other technicians to other sites

Language of the proposed Regulation:

1793.8 Technicians in Hospitals with Clinical Pharmacy Programs.

- (a) A general acute care hospital, as defined in Health and Safety Code 1250 (a), that has an ongoing clinical pharmacy program may allow pharmacy technicians to check the work of other pharmacy technicians in connection with the filling of floor and ward stock and unit dose distribution systems for patients admitted to the hospital whose orders have previously been reviewed and approved by a licensed pharmacist. Only inpatient hospital pharmacies as defined in 4029(a) that maintain a clinical pharmacy services program as described in 4052 may have a technician checking technician program as described. The pharmacy shall have on file a description of the clinical pharmacy program pursuant to initiating a technician checking technician program.
- (1) This section shall only apply to acute care inpatient hospital pharmacy settings.
 - (2) Hospital pharmacies that have a technician checking technician program shall deploy pharmacists to the inpatient care setting to provide clinical services.
- (b) Compounded or repackaged products must have been previously checked by a pharmacist and then may be used by the technician to fill unit dose distribution systems, and floor and ward stock.
- (c) To ensure quality patient care and reduce medication errors, programs that use pharmacy technicians to check the work of other pharmacy technicians pursuant to this section must include the following components:
- (1) The overall operation of the program shall be the responsibility of the pharmacist-in-charge.
 - (2) The program shall be under the direct supervision of a pharmacist and the parameters for the direct supervision shall be specified in the facility’s policies and procedures.
 - (3) The pharmacy technician who performs the checking function has received specialized and advanced training as prescribed in the policies and procedures of the facility.
 - (4) To ensure quality there shall be ongoing evaluation of programs that use pharmacy technicians to check the work of other pharmacy technicians.

For additional information go to www.cshp.org or www.pharmacy.ca.gov