

## Pharmacy Technicians' Scope of Practice in Canadian Jurisdictions — Effective June 2019

SCOPE OF PRACTICE		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	Perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis with a lancet type device under the direction of pharmacist	Supervise a remote dispensing location under the supervision of a pharmacist who is not physically present	
		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 (except for controlled substances)					
Province/Territory	<b>AB</b>		✓	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	<b>BC</b>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	<b>MB</b>		✓		✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓	✓		✓	
	<b>NB</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a	
	<b>NL</b>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	<b>NS</b>		✓		✓	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓	✓		n/a	
	<b>ON</b>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓	
	<b>PE</b>	✓	✓	✓		✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓ <sup>Δ</sup>	✓	✓			
	<b>SK</b>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	<b>CF</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	<b>NWT</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	<b>NU</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	<b>QC</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>YK</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

<b>KEY</b>	
(Blank cells denote activities that are not under current consideration, or not referenced in the jurisdiction materials reviewed)	
✓	Established in legislation and regulation or DND policy
Δ	Further limitations on types/classes of medication, patient groups or circumstances exist
X	The jurisdiction does not currently regulate pharmacy technicians



**Table Two: Definitions used to describe the pharmacy technician’s 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 & DEFINITION
<b>Compounding</b>		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 product 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 falls under the realm of manufacturing under the federal legislative framework and would not be considered pharmacy compounding (HC Policy 0051 and NAPRA compounding standards - non-sterile and sterile).
	<b>Develop a Master Formula or Compounding Protocol</b>	Generating a new Master Formula or Compounding Protocol (as defined in the NAPRA compounding standards) that describes the formula to be used and all 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 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. (NAPRA compounding standards).
	<b>Compound drugs according to a Master Formula or Compounding Protocol</b>	Combining or mixing ingredients in accordance with a previously established Master Formula or Compounding Protocol to create a final compounded product.
	<b>Determine a beyond-use date</b>	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 (NAPRA compounding standards).
<b>Dispensing and Receiving Prescriptions</b>	<b>Receive a verbal order (except for controlled substances) from a prescriber for a drug</b>	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.
	<b>Perform a technical check of a new prescription</b>	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.
	<b>Perform a technical check of a refill prescription</b>	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.
	<b>Perform a technical check of controlled substance prescription</b>	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 a 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.

	<p><b>Transfer prescriptions (except for controlled substances)</b></p>	<p>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. Note: federal legislation and regulations do not currently allow pharmacy technicians to transfer prescriptions for controlled substances.</p>
<p><b>Provide instructions on how to operate medical devices</b></p>		<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Provide medication information to patients that does not require application of therapeutic knowledge</b></p>		<p>Providing information on medications that does not require patient assessment, clinical analysis or application of therapeutic knowledge, as defined in the NAPRA Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacy Technicians.</p>
<p><b>△ — Further limitations on types/classes of medication, patient groups or circumstances exist</b></p>		<p>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).</p>
<p><b>Perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis under the supervision of a pharmacist</b></p>		<p>With the consent of the patient or his or her authorized agent, the pharmacy professional may pierce 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.</p>
<p><b>Supervise a remote dispensing location under the supervision of a pharmacist who is not physically present</b></p>		<p>"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 Regulated Pharmacy Technician.</p>