Order of Adoption

Board of Pharmacy
California Code of Regulations
Change to Title 16, Division 17

1793.7 Requirements for Pharmacies Employing Pharmacy Technicians.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 1793.8, any ~~Any~~ function performed by a pharmacy technician in connection with the dispensing of a prescription, including repackaging from bulk and storage of pharmaceuticals, must be verified and documented in writing by a pharmacist. Except for the preparation of prescriptions for an inpatient of a hospital and for an inmate of a correctional facility, the pharmacist shall indicate verification of the prescription by initialing the prescription label before the medication is provided to the patient.
(b) Pharmacy technicians must work under the direct supervision of a pharmacist and in such a relationship that the supervising pharmacist is fully aware of all activities involved in the preparation and dispensing of medications, including the maintenance of appropriate records.
(c) A pharmacy technician must wear identification clearly identifying him or her as a pharmacy technician.
(d) Any pharmacy employing or using a pharmacy technician shall develop a job description and written policies and procedures adequate to ensure compliance with the provisions of Article 11 of this Chapter, and shall maintain, for at least three years from the time of making, records adequate to establish compliance with these sections and written policies and procedures.
(e) A pharmacist shall be responsible for all activities of pharmacy technicians to ensure that all such activities are performed completely, safely and without risk of harm to patients.
(f) For the preparation of a prescription for an inpatient of a licensed health facility and for a patient of a licensed home health agency, the ratio shall not be less than one pharmacist on duty for a total of two pharmacy technicians on duty. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4115(g)(1), this ratio shall not apply to the preparation of a prescription for an inmate of a correctional facility of the Department of the Youth Authority or the Department of Corrections, or for a person receiving treatment in a facility operated by the State Department of Mental Health, the State Department of Developmental Services, or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4005, 4007, 4038, 4115 and 4202, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Sections 4005, 4007, 4038, 4115 and 4202, Business and Professions Code.

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 prior 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.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4005 and 4115, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Section 4005 and 4115 Business and Professions Code.

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12/1/06
Date