

RECOGNITION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIAN BRIDGING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Registration Policy

Approved September 27, 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Pharmacy Act, 2024*¹ (Act), requires that applicants for registration as a pharmacy technician in Newfoundland and Labrador who are not currently registered as a pharmacy technician in another province or territory of Canada must provide proof of graduation from a Canadian pharmacy technician educational program that has been accredited by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) or another accreditation body approved by the board of the College of Pharmacy of Newfoundland and Labrador (CPNL). However, in situations where a candidate for registration has not graduated from such a program, the Act grants CPNL the authority to set alternative requirements.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 CPNL recognizes that there are pharmacy technician bridging education programs available in Canada for individuals with significant prior pharmacy work experience who wish to register as pharmacy technicians. Pursuant to the authority granted in the Act, CPNL may accept proof of completion of a pharmacy technician bridging education program, where that program has been approved by CPNL, as an alternative to the completion of a CCAPP-accredited program.

2.2 Decisions to approve pharmacy technician bridging education programs as acceptable alternatives to the completion of a CCAPP-accredited program are made by the board of CPNL, and approvals may be rescinded at any time.

¹ Enabling Legislation: Pharmacy Act, 2024, section 20.(1)(b)

To be eligible for consideration for approval by CPNL, a pharmacy technician bridging education program must, at a minimum:

- Be provided by an educational institution that also provides a full CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician education program;
- Be intended for those with at least 2000 hours recent experience working in direct patient care pharmacy practice;
- Have learning outcomes that are based on the Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association (CPTTEA) Educational Outcomes and the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice; and
- Generally meet the CCAPP Accreditation Standards for Canadian Pharmacy Technician Programs with reasonable exemptions, exceptions, and amendments in recognition of the student's 2000 hours of prior experience;

OR

- Already be approved by another Canadian Pharmacy Regulatory Authority.