

TECHNICIAN IMMUNIZATION ADMINISTRATION AND M.T.M. FOR HIV PATIENTS



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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

None of the planners for this activity
have relevant financial relationships to
disclose with ineligible companies.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES



- Pharmacy Technician's role in managing high-risk HIV patients
- Describe the essential knowledge and skills required for pharmacy technicians to safely and effectively administer immunizations

PRE-TEST QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TRUE OR FALSE



- It is authorized for a technician to administer immunizations under the supervision of a pharmacist that isn't CPR certified (False- Pharmacists are required to hold the same certificates as technicians to both administer vaccines and oversee the immunizing technicians)
- Any pharmacy associate who wants to can apply for other certifications through PTCB (False- you must first hold a valid Pharmacy Technician certificate to apply)
- Most drug assistance programs for high-risk HM patients such as Care Assist are state based (True)

HOW IT ALL BEGAN



- October 2020, under the PREP act the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services temporarily authorized trained pharmacy technicians in all 50 states and Washington DC to administer immunizations under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist.¹
- Idaho was the first state to initiate a pilot project for technician immunizations in 2016 that officially went into effect in March 2017.¹
- The Oregon Board of Pharmacy passed their own permanent technician immunization law in January 2024 under House Bill 2486.
- Pharmacy technicians have administered millions of vaccines to patients since 2016 (with most of these coming after 2020).
- Pharmacists are required to hold the same active immunization and CPR certificates as technicians to both administer vaccines and oversee the immunizing technicians.

¹ <https://www.fda.gov/oc/2020/10/20-preparing-for-emergency-use-of-vaccines-and-drugs>
² <https://www.oregon.gov/OSHP/OSHP-News/2017-03-01-Idaho-First-to-Initiate-Pilot-Project-for-Technician-Immunizations>

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US



Oregon's new law gives pharmacy technicians the ability to work at the top of their license with fresh training, guidelines, continuing education and clinical experiences.



To obtain your immunization certificate, you must first hold a valid Pharmacy Technician certificate.



Second, you register into a recognized training program for immunization administration through a pharmacy association like the American Pharmacists Association (APHA) or Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and pass the corresponding exam.



Pharmacy clinics with travel consult services expose technicians to more unique immunizations like IMOVAX (Rabies vaccine) as shown here.

Photo by Oregon OSHP staff

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?




- Immunization isn't the only certificate pharmacy technicians can obtain, there are currently eleven recognized PT/CB certificates³





- Furthermore, if you complete four of these certificates and work as a pharmacy technician for three years, you can apply for an Advanced Certified Pharmacy Technician credential. You must pass the corresponding exam to receive this credential. This is currently the highest credential pharmacy technicians can obtain.³

3 Pharmacy Technician Certifications, https://www.oshp.org/ptcb-certifications

LOCAL CLINICAL PHARMACIES




 Certificates and credentials like these help technicians in finding unique and higher paid job positions (such as clinical pharmacy services) that they would not have known about otherwise. The federal minimum wage is currently \$7.25 and the national average wage for advanced technicians is currently \$19.⁴⁰

 Working in a clinical pharmacy technician role means more complex patient care opportunities are available. These positions make direct use of the available PT/CB certificates. Specifically, the point of care testing, medication therapy management (MTM) and immunization certificates.

40 https://www.bls.gov/wage/minimum-wage/

CARE-ING FOR OUR PATIENTS



Oregon has one pharmacy program for HIV/AIDS, named CAREAssist. It is administered by the Oregon Health Authority. The purpose of CAREAssist is to cover the cost of medications, medical care, and insurance premiums for those living with HIV/AIDS.⁵

Subsequent care for many of our CAREAssist, PrEP, or PEP patients include frequent medication dose syncing, bubble packing, and routine medication therapy management (MTM) reviews due to their more complex profiles.

5 https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ohqa/qa/qa-articles/2018-07-17-oregon-pharmacy-program-for-hiv-aids.aspx

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



In 17 states, pharmacists have expanded authority to provide PEP and PEP to patients. Most often these services are provided in community or clinical pharmacies.

What are PEP and PEP?

PEP is Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and PEP is Post-Exposure Prophylaxis. PEP helps prevent HIV infection prior to exposure to HIV while PEP helps treat patients who have already been exposed to HIV.



Photo courtesy of APHA Blog. Public Health Statistics. © 2019. 17th Edition. September 2019 Edition.



CONCLUSION

- These credentials led me to my current job as a clinical support specialist. Before this I worked both retail and specialty pharmacy.
- Once I became aware of these PTCB certificates, I knew I wanted more out of my career. Since then I have been able to directly apply the skills and knowledge I gathered from these certificates into my working life.
