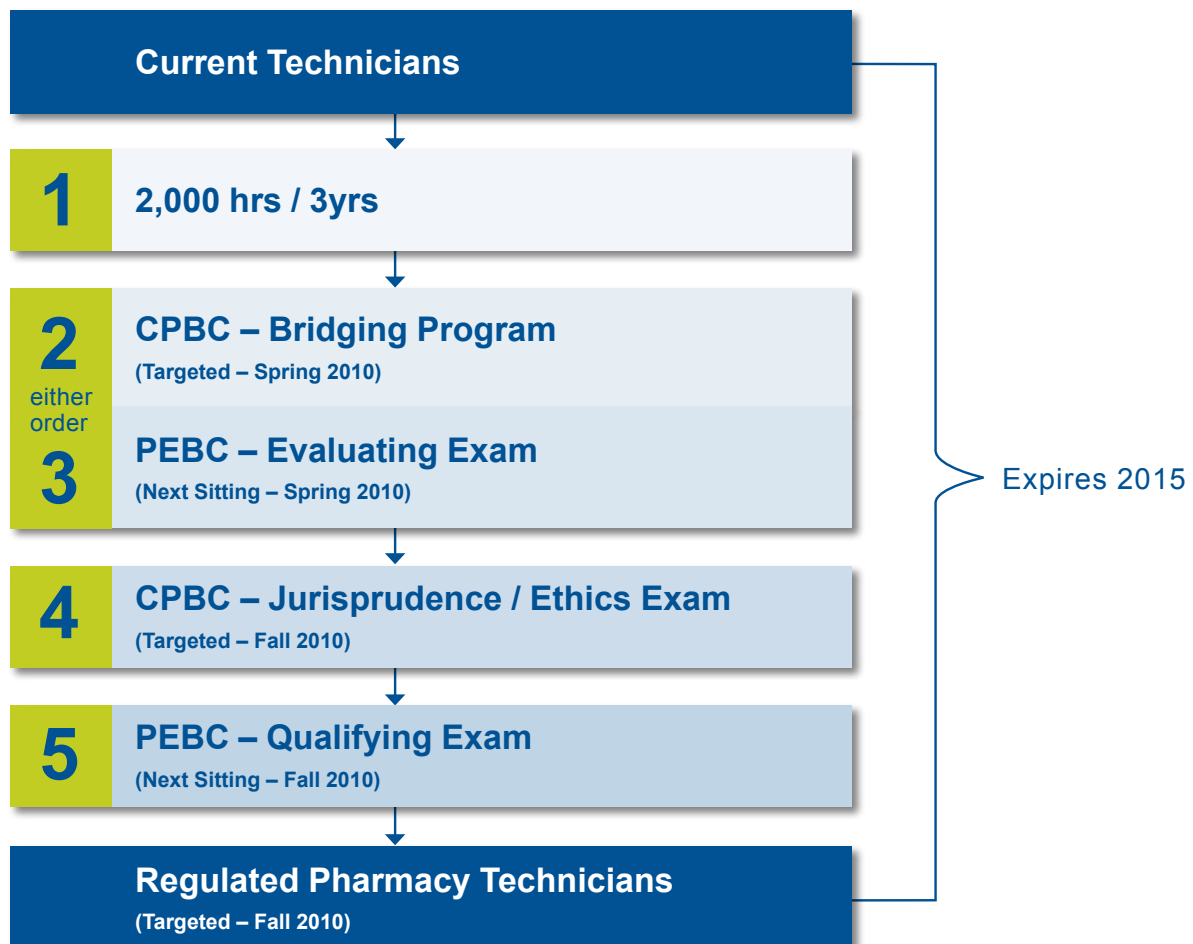


Pharmacy Technician Regulation Update

The regulation of pharmacy technicians, a national initiative which has been underway for some time, will ultimately result in the creation of a new healthcare professional and new registrant of the College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC). Regulated pharmacy technicians will be directly responsible and accountable for an expanded scope of technical functions related to prescription preparation and processing.

The regulation of pharmacy technicians is on a voluntary basis and it is not expected that all current technicians will seek regulation. In fact, it is anticipated that the process will be gradual and there will continue to be a variety of viable pharmacy business models with and without regulated technicians. The target date for the first regulated pharmacy technician is the fall of 2010. Current technicians that choose to pursue regulation must successfully complete the national regulation process approved by the CPBC Board (refer to diagram).

Steps to Regulation for Current Technicians



Note: Timelines are tentative and some components are still under development and subject to change.



Pharmacy Technician Regulation Update (*continued*)

Although some of the specific details are still being developed the process is as follows:

STEP 1 – Minimum Criteria: In order to enter the process a current technician must have worked in 'pharmacy practice' for a minimum of 2000 hours in the past 3 years. The only exception to this minimum requirement is for current technicians who have the most recent certification from either PTCB-AB (2007) or OCP (2008). (*Note: if a current technician does not meet the minimum criteria they would seek regulation by enrolling in a 'CCAPP accredited regulated pharmacy technician program' offered at a public or private college.*)

STEP 2 AND 3 – CPBC Bridging Program and PEBC Evaluating Exam: The completion of both the CPBC Bridging Program and the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Evaluating Exam, which can be done in either order, is required by all current technicians seeking regulation. (*Note: the only exception is those who hold certification from either PTCB-AB (2007) or OCP (2008) do not need to sit the PEBC Evaluating Exam but are still required to complete the Bridging Program.*)

The Bridging Program is divided into 4 modules – Professional Practice, Product Preparation, Pharmacology and Management of Drug Distribution Systems – each module, which is approximately 40 hours long, will also be offered online. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) will be available for all modules with the exception of the Professional Practice module which is mandatory.

The PEBC Evaluating Exam, which is meant to help technicians assess their current knowledge level in pharmacy practice, is a 3 hour/150 multiple choice question exam. More details on the Evaluating Exam, including the exam sitting schedule, are available at: www.pebc.ca.

STEP 4 – CPBC Jurisprudence / Ethics Exam:

The requirement to successfully complete a Jurisprudence / Ethics Exam is consistent with the registration process for pharmacists and is designed to test relevant provincial legislation and ethics which is not included on the national PEBC Qualifying Exam.

STEP 5 – PEBC Qualifying Exam: The PEBC Qualifying Exam consists of two parts – a written multiple choice question exam (MCQ) and a performance based exam called an Objective Structured Performance Exam (OSPE). PEBC is expected to offer the exam nationally at key locations twice a year with the first offering in British Columbia scheduled for the fall of 2010.

Important: Current technicians will have a limited time to pursue regulation through this route as it is only intended to be offered for a five-year period (expires 2015). After that time, current technicians wishing to become regulated will need to successfully complete a CCAPP accredited regulated pharmacy technician program offered through a public or private college.

More Information

- Plan to attend the **4th Annual CAPT (Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians) Vancouver Conference** – River Rock Casino Resort, Richmond, BC – October 16th & 17th, 2009 (Note: Doreen Leong, Director of Special Projects, College of Pharmacists of BC will be presenting "Moving Forward with Pharmacy Technician Regulation" on Saturday October 17th from 1:45pm – 2:45pm) Registration Deadline October 8th, 2009 www.captvancouver.ca
- The College of Pharmacists of BC is currently developing a **Webinar (targeted for later this fall)** to be broadcasted throughout the province to provide current information about the pharmacy technician regulation process.
- Continuously check out the **College website – Key Initiatives, Pharmacy Technician Regulation** – for the latest information and updates: www.bcpharmacists.org