PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION EXAM

WHAT IS IT?
- PTCE is a certification exam administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

WHY SHOULD I TAKE IT?
- In California, the PTCE is accepted in fulfilling the prerequisites and qualifying documentation when applying for a pharmacy technician license. In other words, the PTCE is the gateway to becoming a certified pharmacy technician in California.
- Once certified, you have the opportunities to work alongside pharmacist and gain experience and understand of working in a pharmacy. This is a great way to have an insight into the field of pharmacy to determine if pharmacy is right for you.
- In addition, pharmacy schools either require or highly recommend potential applicants to have experience working in a pharmacy. Being certified is the first step in doing so.
- Most employers prefer, and many require, that their pharmacy technicians be certified.
- To learn more, visit: http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/applicants/index.shtml#pharmacy_technician

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO TAKE THE PTCE?
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Full disclosure of all criminal and State Board of Pharmacy registration or licensure actions
- Compliance with all applicable PTCB certification policies

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THIS EXAM?
- Fill out an application online at: https://portal.ptcb.org/Login.aspx
- Pay exam fee of $129

WHEN CAN I TAKE THE EXAM?
- Exams offered many times throughout the year and can be taken anytime you are ready.

HOW IS THE PTCE FORMATTED?
- 90 multiple choice questions.
- Total of 110 minutes to take the exam.
- A 5 minute tutorial before the exam and 5 minute survey afterwards.

HOW IS THE PTCE SCORED?
- 10 of the 90 questions do not count towards the score and are pilot questions.
- No penalty for guessing or wrong answers.
- Passing score is 1400 out of 1600.
- Exam is curved and scaled based on the average score for that specific exam.

Last updated on 10/12/2015
WHAT TOPICS DO THE PTCE COVER?
- Pharmacology for Technicians 13.75%
- Pharmacy Law and Regulations 12.50%
- Sterile and Non-sterile Compounding 8.75%
- Medication Safety 12.50%
- Pharmacy Quality Assurance 7.50%
- Medication Order Entry and Fill Process 17.50%
- Pharmacy Inventory Management 8.75%
- Pharmacy Billing and Reimbursement 8.75%
- Pharmacy Information Systems Usage and Application 10.00%

HOW DO I STUDY FOR THE PTCE?
- There are various books and online resources.
- The most common study book people use to prepare is the *Mosby’s Review for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination*
- Review books are available in the PharmSci Office

DOES PASSING THE PTCE MAKE ME A CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN?
- NO, in order to be certified, you must fill out an application and be approved by the California State Board of Pharmacy.

HOW DO I APPLY TO BECOME CERTIFIED?
- Fill out an application for pharmacy technician at:  
  [http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/forms/tch_app_pkt.pdf](http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/forms/tch_app_pkt.pdf)
- Pay an application fee of $105
- Submit: 2x2 photo of yourself, proof of high school graduation, and qualifying documentation (PTCB Certification gained from passing the PTCE)

HOW LONG WILL THE OVERALL PROCESS TAKE?
- Studying: varies (2 weeks to 2 months)
- Exam: once authorized, you have up to 90 days to schedule an exam date.
- Results: instant, but it takes about 2 weeks to receive official documents.
- Apply to the Board of Pharmacy: takes about 60 days to complete the entire process and to be certified.