



The Pharmacy Technician Board of Canada (P.Te.B)

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Frequently Asked Questions and Answers Regarding your PTeB Certification:

1. What does my PTeB certification represent?

PTeB certification and recertification have been a means to document that you have passed a theory-based competency assessment and have maintained your knowledge through approved continuing education activities each year. Outside of the Ontario certification exam, the PTeB exam has historically been the only standardized competency assessment available to pharmacy technicians in Canada; this is why many employers have used it as part of their hiring criteria and why many educators still look to the exam as a testing-ground for new graduates prior to entry to practice.

2. Will my PTeB certification mean anything if Pharmacy Technicians become Regulated in this province?

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC), who is developing the new national pharmacy technician exam, has not yet determined whether any credit will be given to technicians that have already written and passed the Alberta PTeB certification exam. Recent recognition of the Ontario certification exam may imply that PTeB certified technicians will be granted the same recognition but this has NOT yet been confirmed by PEBC (as of January 19th the possibility was still under investigation), nor does this provide any assurance that it will be recognized. PTeB has lobbied on behalf of our certified technicians since 2003 and have met with PEBC board members to discuss our exam and certification processes. As of this notice - No final decisions have yet been made.

3. I am certified with PTeB and am a member in good standing. What should I do now?

All members in good standing will receive, or already have received, an official letter from PTeB which documents their achievement, as well as an open-ended (no expiry date) wallet card. These documents are confirmation that a theory-based assessment has been passed and maintained as of 2008. ***It will be up to each individual technician to maintain and document their continuing education activities from this point forward*** in order to ensure that there is no reason for their certification to be discredited.

4. Will I be able to continue recertifying with PTeB or PTSA?

Effective for the July, 2008 PTeB recertification period, there will no longer be an official recertification process outside of the procedures in place for re-registration through individual provincial Colleges of Pharmacy (such as the process in place through the Alberta College of Pharmacists) where available.

5. I am not in good standing with PTeB and have not recertified for more than one year. What should I do?

For a limited time, you will have the opportunity to provide PTeB with the required information in order to up-date your certification status and to then have a validation letter and wallet card issued to you. Please contact us ***prior to April 31st, 2008*** if you wish to make these arrangements.

6. Will I still be able to get Continuing Education modules through PTeB?

Effective May 1st, 2008, PTeB's mandate will be complete and select services will be available through the Pharmacy Technician Society of Alberta (PTSA). Please refer to the enclosed announcement flyer for PTSA website and contact information. There will be no disruption of services to existing and new Continuing Education subscribers; it will continue, uninterrupted, through PTSA.