

**GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS
COMMUNITY PHARMACY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE**

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

SFY 2020 Executive Budget Parts CC (S.1507-A/A.2007-A)

Recognizing Certified Pharmacy Technicians

The above-listed organizations support the proposal included in the SFY 2020 Executive Budget (30-day amendments) to recognize the essential duties of certified pharmacy technicians.

In particular, this proposal requires that individuals assisting with pharmacy services in Article 28 hospitals, under the direct supervision of licensed pharmacists, shall be certified through a nationally accredited pharmacy technician certification program. The proposal includes a grandparenting provision for those working in these facilities who cannot obtain such certification. However, the proposal is clear that only those who are certified and properly trained may assist in measuring, weighing, compounding, or mixing of medications as part of the process pharmacists utilize to prepare and dispense medications in hospitals and nursing homes.

In addition, this proposal would bring New York in line with nearly every other state by allowing for an expansion in the number of individuals that pharmacists may supervise, if they are certified by a nationally accredited pharmacy technician certification program.

We support this proposal because it recognizes an emerging field and provides clarity in law around what those who are certified nationally as pharmacy technicians may do and modernizes supervisory standards commensurate with individuals' capabilities and knowledge, as demonstrated through achieving a national certification. Nationally-accredited certification programs create a standard for practice and provide for continued growth in an evolving field.

Those assisting pharmacists under direct supervision play an integral role in ensuring that patients receive high quality pharmacy care. Technicians who are certified bring additional value and reliability, especially as pharmacists are involved in more patient-facing care, making rounds in hospitals, reviewing medication profiles, doing medication reconciliation at discharge and in the community setting, collaborating directly with other providers on managing patients' chronic disease states, enhanced counseling and medication adherence services, giving immunizations and other activities focused on improving patient health and outcomes.

For these reasons, the time is now for New York to become more aligned with other states across the nation in recognizing certified pharmacy technicians and in doing so, creating greater opportunities for this workforce while improving pharmacy care in the state overall.

The above-listed organizations support this proposal and urges its enactment in the Final State Budget.