

Utilization of Pharmacy Ancillary Personnel Draft Rule Language
August 2025 PQAC Business Meeting

WAC 246-945-001 Definitions.

The definitions in chapters [18.64](#) and [18.64A](#) RCW and those in this section apply throughout this chapter unless otherwise stated.

- (1) "ACPE" means accreditation council for pharmacy education.
- (2) "Active ingredient" means any component that is intended to furnish pharmacological activity or other direct effect in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or to affect the structure or any function of the body of humans or other animals. The term includes those components that may undergo chemical change in the manufacture of the drug product and be present in that drug product in a modified form intended to furnish the specified activity or effect.
- (3) "Adulterated" refers to a drug that was produced and the methods used in, or the facilities or controls used for, its manufacture, processing, packing, or holding do not conform to or are not operated or administered in conformity with WAC [246-945-550](#) as to safety and has the identity and strength, and meets the quality and purity characteristics, which it purports or is represented to possess.
- (4) "Animal control agency" means any agency authorized by law to euthanize or destroy animals; to sedate animals prior to euthanasia or to engage in chemical capture of animals.
- (5) "Approved legend drugs" means any legend drug approved by the commission for use by registered humane societies or animal control agencies for the sole purpose of sedating animals prior to euthanasia, when necessary, and for use in chemical capture programs.
- (6) "Audit trail" means all materials and documents required for the entire process of filling a prescription, which shall be sufficient to document or reconstruct the origin of the prescription, and authorization of subsequent modifications of that prescription.
- (7) "Blood" means whole blood collected from a single donor and processed either for transfusion or further manufacturing.
- (8) "Blood component" means that part of the blood separated by physical or mechanical means.
- (9) "Central fill pharmacy" means a pharmacy contracting with an originating pharmacy, or having the same owner as an originating pharmacy, that provides centralized prescription filling on behalf of the originating pharmacy pursuant to these rules.
- (10) "Chemical capture program" means wildlife management programs registered under RCW [69.41.080](#) and [69.50.320](#) to use approved legend drugs and controlled substance for chemical capture. Chemical capture includes immobilization of individual animals in order for the animals to be moved, treated, examined, or for other legitimate purposes.

(11) "Collaborative drug therapy agreement" or "CDTA" means a written guideline or protocol previously established and approved by a practitioner authorized to prescribe drugs that enables a pharmacist to exercise prescriptive authority.

(12) "Controlled substances" has the same meaning as RCW [69.50.101](#).

(13) "Controlled substance wholesaler" means a wholesaler licensed under RCW [18.64.046](#) to possess and sell controlled substances to a licensed pharmacy or other legally licensed or authorized person.

(14) "Commission" means the pharmacy quality assurance commission.

(15) "Counterfeit" means a drug which, or the container or labeling of which, without authorization, bears the trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint, or device, or any likeness thereof, of a drug manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor other than the person or persons who in fact manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed such drug and which thereby falsely purports or is represented to be the product of, or to have been packed or distributed by, such other drug manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor.

(16) "CPE" means continuing pharmacy education accredited by the ACPE.

(17) "Consultation" means:

(a) A communication or deliberation between a pharmacist and a patient, a patient's agent, or a patient's health care provider in which the pharmacist uses professional judgment to provide advice about drug therapy.

(b) A method by which the pharmacist meets patient information requirements as set forth in WAC [246-945-325](#).

(18) "Credential" means a license, certification, or registration under the chapters specified in RCW [18.130.040](#) issued to a person to practice a regulated health care profession. Whether the credential is a license, certification, or registration is determined by the law regulating the profession.

(19) "DEA" means the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

(20) "Delegated tasks" means tasks that are performed pursuant to a pharmacist's direction, without the exercise of the pharmacy ancillary personnel's own judgment and discretion, and which do not require the pharmacy ancillary personnel's to exercise the independent professional judgment that is the foundation of the practice of the profession of pharmacy.

(21) "Department" means the Washington state department of health.

(22) "Dose" means the amount of drug to be administered at one time.

(23) "Drug(s) of concern" are those drugs identified by the commission as demonstrating a potential for abuse by all professionals licensed to prescribe, dispense, or administer such substances in this state.

(24) "Drug price advertising" means the dissemination of nonpromotional information pertaining to the prices of legend or prescription drugs.

(25) "Drug product" means a finished dosage form (e.g., tablet, capsule, solution) that contains an active drug ingredient generally, but not necessarily, in association with inactive ingredients. The term also includes a finished dosage form that does not contain an active ingredient but is intended to be used as a placebo.

(26) "Drug sample" means a unit of prescription drug that is not intended to be sold and is intended to promote the sale of the drug.

(27) "Drug standard and information sources" means industry recognized reference and resources.

(28) "Drug storage area" means an area where legend drugs, controlled substances, or other restricted items are stored, compounded, or dispensed.

(29) "Drug utilization review" includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

(a) Evaluation of prescriptions and patient records for known allergies, rational therapy-contraindications, appropriate dose, and route of administration and appropriate directions for use;

(b) Evaluation of prescriptions and patient records for duplication of therapy;

(c) Evaluation of prescriptions and patient records for interactions between drug-drug, drug-food, drug-disease, and adverse drug reactions; and

(d) Evaluation of prescriptions and patient records for proper utilization, including over- or under-utilization, and optimum therapeutic outcomes.

(30) "Electronic means" means an electronic device used to send, receive, or store prescription information, including computers, facsimile machines, etc.

(31) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a contract or other record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

(32) "Enrolled student" means a student who has accepted an offer of admission in writing and the student has made the appropriate deposit securing admission to an accredited school or college of pharmacy.

(33) "Equivalent manager" means an individual authorized to act on behalf of a pharmaceutical firm not licensed as a pharmacy to serve as the primary contact for the department and is responsible for managing the facility operations which includes, but is not limited to, actively involved in and aware of the daily operations of the facility.

(34) "Export wholesaler" means any wholesaler authorized by the commission to export legend drugs and nonprescription (OTC) drugs to foreign countries.

(35) "FDA" - United States Food and Drug Administration.

(36) "Final product verification" means a final verification of the prescription dispensing process to confirm the filled product is the correct drug, strength, and formulation, and has the correct expiration date, consistent with the prescribed order or prescription label, where a licensed pharmacist has completed a drug utilization review and approved the prescription.

~~(36) "Full-line wholesaler" means a drug wholesale distributor that is licensed under RCW 18.64.046 to possess and sell legend drugs, controlled substance and nonprescription drugs to a licensed pharmacy or other legally licensed or authorized person.~~

(37) "FPGEC" means foreign pharmacy graduate examination committee.

(38) "FPGEE" means foreign pharmacy graduate equivalency examination.

~~(3639) "Full-line wholesaler" means a drug wholesale distributor that is licensed under RCW 18.64.046 to possess and sell legend drugs, controlled substance and nonprescription drugs to a licensed pharmacy or other legally licensed or authorized person.~~

(3940) "Generic substitution" means the act of switching between a branded drug and its therapeutically equivalent generic version.

(401) "HIPAA" means Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

(412) "Hospital" means any institution licensed under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW or designated under RCW 72.23.020.

(423) "Hospital pharmacy" means that portion of a hospital licensed under RCW 18.64.043 which is engaged in the manufacture, production, preparation, dispensing, sale, or distribution of drugs, components, biologicals, chemicals, devices and other materials used in the diagnosis and treatment of injury, illness and diseases.

(434) "Hospital pharmacy associated clinic" or "HPAC" means an individual practitioner's office or multipractitioner clinic owned, operated, or under common control of a parent hospital or health system, where the physical address of the office or clinic is identified on a hospital pharmacy license.

(445) "Immediate supervision" means supervision by a pharmacist who is immediately available at all times the delegated tasks are being performed; who is aware of delegated tasks being performed; and who provides personal assistance, direction and approval throughout the time the delegated tasks are being performed.

(a) "Immediately available" means the pharmacist and pharmacy ancillary personnel or interns are on the same physical premises, or if not, technology is used to enable real time, two-way communications between the pharmacist and pharmacy ancillary personnel and interns.

(b) Use of technology: A pharmacist, as an adjunct to assist in the immediate supervision of the pharmacy ancillary personnel or intern, may employ technological means to communicate with or observe the pharmacy ancillary personnel or intern. A pharmacist shall make certain all applicable state and federal laws including, but not limited to, confidentiality, are fully observed when

employing technological means of communication and observation. If technology is being used to provide immediate supervision of pharmacy ancillary personnel or intern such technology shall be sufficient to provide the personal assistance, direction and approval required to meet the standard of practice for the delegated tasks.

(456) "Inoperable" means a credential status indicating that an individual cannot practice because he or she is not actively participating or enrolled in a required training program when this condition is a requirement of the credential. Inoperable status is not the result of enforcement action. The health care professional can resume practice when appropriately enrolled in a required training program and the credential is reactivated.

(467) "Internal test assessment" means, but is not limited to, conducting those tests of quality assurance necessary to ensure the integrity of the test.

(478) "Investigational drug" means any article drug that has an investigational drug application (INDA) that has been approved by the FDA.

(4849) "Key party" means immediate family members and others who would be reasonably expected to play a significant role in the health care decisions of the patient or client and includes, but is not limited to, the spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, child, guardian and person authorized to make health care decisions of the patient or client.

(4950) "Law enforcement" means any general or limited authority Washington peace officer or federal law enforcement officer or tribal officer.

(501) "License transfer" means the process used by licensed pharmacists to transfer their existing pharmacist license to Washington using NABP's Electronic Licensure Transfer Program® (e-LTPTM).

(512) "Lot" means a batch or a specific identified portion of a batch having uniform character and quality within specified limits, or in the case of a drug product produced by continuous process, it is a specific identified amount produced in a unit of time or quantity in a manner that assures it is having uniform character and quality within specified limits.

(523) "Manual signature" means a printed or wet signature.

(534) "Misbranded" applies to all drugs the package or label of which bears any statement, design or device regarding such article or the ingredients or substances contained therein which is false or misleading in any particular way, and drug product which is falsely branded as to the state, territory or country in which it is manufactured or produced.

(545) "NABP" means the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

(556) "NDC" means National Drug Code.

(567) "Nuclear pharmacy" means a pharmacy providing radiopharmaceutical services.

(578) "Nuclear pharmacist" means a pharmacist licensed under RCW [18.64.080](#) who holds an endorsement that meets the requirements of WAC [246-945-180](#).

(5859) "Originating pharmacy" means a pharmacy that receives a prescription from a patient, the patient's agent, or a prescriber, outsources prescription filling or processing functions to another

pharmacy, and ultimately dispenses the prescription drug or device to the patient or the patient's agent. This does not include pharmacies engaged in shared pharmacy services in accordance with RCW [18.64.570](#).

(~~59~~[60](#)) "Over-the-counter drugs" or "OTC" means "nonlegend" or "nonprescription" drugs, and any drugs which may be lawfully sold without a prescription.

(~~60~~[1](#)) "Over-the-counter only wholesaler" means any wholesaler licensed under RCW [18.64.046](#) to possess and sell OTC drugs to any outlets credentialed for resale.

(~~61~~[2](#)) "Pharmaceutical firm" means a business engaged in the dispensing, delivering, distributing, manufacturing, or wholesaling of prescription drugs or devices within or into Washington state.

(~~62~~[3](#)) "Pharmacy intern" means a person who is registered with the commission under RCW [18.64.080](#)(3) as a pharmacy intern.

(~~63~~[4](#)) "Pharmacy services" means any services provided that meet the definition of the practice of pharmacy, RCW [18.64.011](#).

(~~64~~[5](#)) "Plan of correction" is a proposal devised by the applicant or credential holder that includes specific corrective actions that must be taken to correct identified unresolved deficiencies with time frames to complete them.

(~~65~~[6](#)) "Precursor drugs" as defined in chapter [69.43](#) RCW.

(~~66~~[7](#)) "Prescription drug" means any drug, including any biological product required by federal statute or regulation to be dispensed only by a prescription, including finished dosage forms and bulk drug substances subject to section 503(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

(~~67~~[8](#)) "Protocol" means a written set of procedures, steps or guidance.

(~~68~~[69](#)) "Radiopharmaceutical service" means, but is not limited to:

- (a) The preparing, compounding, dispensing, labeling, and delivery of radiopharmaceuticals;
- (b) The participation in radiopharmaceutical selection and radiopharmaceutical utilization reviews;
- (c) The proper and safe storage and distribution of radiopharmaceuticals;
- (d) The maintenance of radiopharmaceutical quality assurance;
- (e) The responsibility for advising, where necessary or where regulated, of therapeutic values, hazards and use of radiopharmaceuticals; or
- (f) The offering or performing of those acts, services, operations or transactions necessary in the conduct, operation management and control of a nuclear pharmacy.

(~~69~~[70](#)) "Radiopharmaceutical" means any substance defined as a drug in section 201 (g)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act which exhibits spontaneous disintegration of unstable nuclei with the emission of nuclear particles or photons and includes any nonradioactive reagent kit or nuclide generator which is intended to be used in the preparation of any such substance but does not include drugs such as carbon-containing compounds or potassium-containing salts which

contain trace quantities of naturally occurring radionuclides. The term "radioactive drug" includes a "radioactive biological product."

(761) "Radiopharmaceutical quality assurance" means, but is not limited to, the performance of appropriate chemical, biological and physical tests on radiopharmaceuticals and the interpretation of the resulting data to determine their suitability for use in humans and animals, including internal test assessment authentication of product history and the keeping of proper records.

(742) "Readily retrievable" means a record that is kept by automatic data processing systems or other electronic, mechanized, or written recordkeeping systems in such a manner that it can be separated out from all other records in a reasonable time.

(723) "Reverse distributor" means a pharmaceutical wholesaler that receives drugs for destruction, return credit, or otherwise disposes of drugs received from a registrant that holds a credential to dispense or possess drugs.

(734) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Washington state department of health.

(745) "Strength" means:

(a) The concentration of the drug product; or

(b) The potency, that is, the therapeutic activity of the drug product as indicated by appropriate laboratory tests or by adequately developed and controlled clinical data.

(756) "U.S. jurisdiction" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(767) "USP" means the United States Pharmacopeia.

(778) "Therapeutic substitution" means the act of dispensing an alternative drug that is believed to be therapeutically similar but may be chemically different, in a different category, or with different pharmacokinetic properties. This substitution is based on the premise that the substituted drug will provide similar clinical efficacy, desired outcome, and safety profile.

(7879) "TOEFL iBT" means an internet based test which measures the ability to use and understand English. It evaluates the combined use of reading, listening, speaking and writing skills.

(7980) "Virtual manufacturer" means an individual or facility that sells his or her own prescription drugs, but never physically possesses the drugs.

(801) "Virtual wholesaler" means an individual or facility that sells a prescription drug or device, but never physically possesses the product.

(842) "Wholesale distribution" means distribution of prescription drugs to persons other than a consumer or patient, but does not include:

(a) The sale, purchase, or trade of a drug, an offer to sell, purchase or trade a drug, or the dispensing of a drug pursuant to a prescription;

(b) The lawful distribution of drug samples by manufacturers' representatives or distributors' representatives;

(c) The sale, purchase, or trade of blood and blood components intended for transfusion;

(d) Intracompany sales, being defined as any transaction or transfer between any division, subsidiary, parent or affiliated, or related company under the common ownership and control of a corporate entity, unless such transfer occurs between a wholesale distributor and a health care entity or practitioner; or

(e) The sale, purchase, or trade of a drug or an offer to sell, purchase, or trade a drug for emergency medical reasons, for purposes of this section, "emergency medical reasons" includes transfers of prescription drugs by retail pharmacy to another retail pharmacy or practitioner to alleviate a temporary shortage, except that the gross dollar value of such transfers shall not exceed five percent of the total prescription drug sale revenue of either the transferor or transferee pharmacy during any 12 consecutive month period.

WAC 246-945-315 Delegation of pharmacy functions to pharmacy ancillary personnel.

(1) All delegated pharmacy functions shall be performed under a pharmacist's immediate supervision. A pharmacist, as an adjunct to assist in the immediate supervision of the pharmacy ancillary personnel or intern, may employ technological means to communicate with or observe the pharmacy ancillary personnel or intern. A pharmacist shall make certain all applicable state and federal laws including, but not limited to, confidentiality, are fully observed when employing technological means of communication and observation. If technology is being used to provide immediate supervision of pharmacy ancillary personnel or intern such technology shall be sufficient to provide the personal assistance, direction and approval required to meet the standard of practice for the delegated tasks.

(2) When delegating a pharmacy function to a pharmacy technician:

(a) A pharmacist shall consider the pharmacy technician's scope of practice, education, skill, and experience and take them into account; and

(b) A pharmacist will not delegate a pharmacy function that is listed in WAC 246-945-320.

(3) A pharmacist may delegate to a pharmacy assistant those functions defined in RCW 18.64A.030 and the following:

(a) Prepackage and label drugs for subsequent use in prescription dispensing operations; and

(b) Count, pour, and label for individual prescriptions.

(4) In determining functions that can be delegated to a pharmacy assistant pursuant to RCW 18.64A.030 and this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Stocking" means placement of a drug or device on a shelf, into a cabinet, or other dispensing system within a pharmacy and without any manipulation to the drug or device by the pharmacy assistant, such as repackaging of, or the removal of packaging from, the drug or device. Stocking of nonprescription drugs and devices is not limited to placement within a pharmacy.

(b) "Typing of prescription labels" means:

(i) Producing a prescription label if the content of the label was inputted and generated by a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, or pharmacy technician; or

(ii) Inputting, generating, and producing a prescription label for a refill where no changes were made to the prescription, except for the number of refills remaining.

WAC 246-945-316 Pharmacy Technician Final Product Verification

(1) Pharmacists may delegate final product verification to a licensed pharmacy technician if a pharmacy technician has demonstrated proficiency in final product verification and meets the following criteria:

- (a) Completed at least 2,000 hours of pharmacy technician work experience in the same pharmacy practice setting in which the final product verification will be performed; and
- (b) Obtained certification for pharmacy technician product verification from a certification program recognized by the commission.

(2) When utilizing pharmacy technician final product verification, the pharmacy must:

- (a) Possess a commission-approved ancillary utilization plan (AUP) documenting that a pharmacy technician will perform final product verification;
- (b) Implement policies and procedures that include the following:
 - (i) Utilization of a technology assisted verification system that uses barcode scanning or similar technology to electronically verify the prescription and electronically verify the prescribed product has been properly dispensed. The technology must be quality tested daily through random quality testing. If an error is detected, use of the technology must be immediately terminated until a licensed pharmacist can inspect and revalidate the machine;
 - (iii) A process that monitors and ensures the accuracy and safety of the product dispensed;
 - (v) The monitoring and evaluation procedures to be used ensure competency of the pharmacy technician;
 - (viii) Protocol for technology malfunction or error that prohibits a pharmacy technician from completing visual verification of the product or manually entering the drug product into the pharmacy processing system; and
 - (ix) A continuous quality assurance program that audits and evaluates dispensing accuracy.

(3) If delegating final product verification to a pharmacy technician, the following restrictions apply:

- (a) The pharmacist must be physically present in the same pharmacy that the delegated final product verification occurs;
- (b) The pharmacy technician only performs final product verification during the dispensing process of a product filled by another pharmacy technician, a pharmacy intern, or a pharmacist. The pharmacy technician may not conduct pharmacy technician final product verification as part of the final check of their own product preparation;
- (c) The product dispensed is not a controlled substance or compounded medication;

(d) The pharmacy technician may have no other assigned tasks when performing final product verification; and

(e) A pharmacy technician may not perform overrides for technology error or exception.

(4) A pharmacy technician-in-training may not perform final product verification.

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WAC 246-945-317 ~~Tech-check tech.~~ Tech check tech in facilities licensed under chapter 70.41, 71.12, 71A.20, and 74.42 RCW.

(1) "Verification" as used in this section means the pharmacist has reviewed a patient prescription initiated by an authorized prescriber, has examined the patient's drug profile, and has approved the prescription after taking into account pertinent drug and disease information to ensure the correctness of the prescription for a specific patient. The verification process must generate an audit trail that identifies the pharmacist. The pharmacist who performs the verification of a prescription is responsible for all reports generated by the approval of that prescription. The unit-dose medication fill and check reports are an example.

(2) A pharmacist may allow for unit-dose medication checking. Following verification of a prescription by the pharmacist, a technician may check unit-dose medication cassettes filled by another pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern in pharmacies serving facilities licensed under chapter 70.41, 71.12, 71A.20, or 74.42 RCW. ~~No more than a forty-eight hour supply of drugs may be included in the patient medication cassettes and a~~ A licensed health professional must check the drug before administering it to the patient.

WAC 246-945-318 Pharmacy Technician Administration of Drugs and Devices

(1) Pharmacists may delegate the administration of drugs and devices to a pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician-in-training if the pharmacy has a commission-approved AUP that meets all the following criteria:

(a) The pharmacist or pharmacy intern must retain the discretionary function to determine the patient's needs and all clinical assessments, including patient counseling regarding potential risks and side effects.

(b) The pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician-in-training must have completed adequate and appropriate training on what medications and devices they may administer.

(c) Training for pharmacy technicians or pharmacy technicians-in-training who will administer drugs and devices must include the following:

(i) Describe proper techniques when preparing and administering medications and devices;

(ii) Recognize commonly used medications and devices and their corresponding routes of administration;

(iii) Distinguish proper needle specifications based on medications and patient age, size, and anatomical features;

(iv) Identify proper documentation procedures;

(v) Recall medications storage requirements;

(vi) Describe safety measures to avoid accidental needle stick injuries;

(vii) Recognize appropriate actions to take in emergency situations;

(viii) Demonstrate a successful technique when administering an intramuscular and subcutaneous injections;

(ix) Demonstrate appropriate distraction techniques during medication and device administration;

(x) Demonstrate the use of universal precautions as they pertain to bloodborne pathogens; and

(xi) Explain the procedures for managing a medication reaction emergency.