



## **FAQ: PHARMACY TECHNICIANS & ADMINISTERING INJECTIONS**

Training.....	1
Supervision .....	2
Workflow.....	2
Other .....	4

### **TRAINING**

- Q. What are the approved training programs recognized by the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists?**  
The Council of the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists approves training program requirements for pharmacy professionals. Training programs that possess CCCEP-Stage II accreditation are considered approved.
- Q. How long after I complete the training program can I begin to administer injections?**  
Upon successfully completing an approved training program, a pharmacy technician must:
1. Apply to the College for a Technical Permit to Administer Injections, meet all requirements and pay the application fee.
  2. Receive confirmation from the College that their Technical Permit to Administer Injections has been issued.
- Q. I am a pharmacy technician student registered with the College and I am wondering if I can take an injection training course now, or if I have to wait until I am licensed?**  
Deciding when to enroll in an injection training program is very important. Consider the following:
- You can take an injection training program now, and as a student, may be able to administer injections while under the supervision of a pharmacy technician who has a Technical Permit to Administer Injections or a pharmacist who is authorized to administer injections. As a student you are not eligible to apply for a Technical Permit to Administer Injections.
  - The training program is only accepted by the College for registration purposes for one year from the date of completion. If you are a pharmacy technician student with more than one year to go before graduation, and you complete the injections training program now, another injections training program may have to be completed closer to the date you would be eligible for licensure as a pharmacy technician.

**Q. If I take an injection training course while I am a pharmacy technician student registered with the College, is there any way I can avoid taking it again if I can't apply for a Technical Permit within the one year cut off?**

If, after graduation, you become registered on an Active Direct Client Care register and it is more than one year after taking an injection training program you may apply for and be granted a Technical Permit to Administer Injections, only if you have maintained competency through regular and ongoing use of the knowledge and skills needed to administer of injections (under supervision).

## **SUPERVISION**

**Q. Do pharmacy technicians need to be supervised by a pharmacist to administer injections?**

**Yes.** Pharmacy technicians, according to Regulation 20.6, practice under the routine supervision of a pharmacist. The same level of supervision is required for administering injections. Please see the definition of 'routine supervision' in the Regulations.

**Q. Can a pharmacy technician administer injections at a site that is not a pharmacy such as clinics in assisted living facilities?**

**Yes,** if a pharmacist is present and all other requirements of the Policy and Regulations are met.

**Q. If there are other health care professionals present, can I inject with one of them doing the therapeutic assessment instead of a pharmacist?**

**No.** A pharmacist must conduct a patient assessment, care plan, and perform patient counselling. According to the documents related to Administration of Injections released in 2021, pharmacy technicians must administer medications while under the routine supervision of a pharmacist who is authorized to inject. This is consistent with the definition of "pharmacy technician" in our Regulations, which bonds the work of a technician with a supervising pharmacist.

The *Policy Administration of Injections* (the Policy) states "A pharmacy technician may only complete the **technical** component of administering an injection and any care subsequent to an adverse reaction. The technical component includes:

- i. Preparing the medication to be injected and
- ii. administering the injection to the patient.

**Q. As a preceptor, can a pharmacy technician delegate the administration of injections to apprentices?**

**Yes.** A pharmacy technician may delegate and supervise the technical component of administering an injection according to their scope of practice. Pharmacy technicians are also responsible for verifying the credentials of the practitioner they delegate the technical aspect of administration of injections to.

## **WORKFLOW**

**Q. If the pharmacist must be part of every injection anyway, how can a pharmacy technician be used efficiently and effectively?**

In the same way the dispensing process has both clinical and technical functions, drawing up and administering medications via injection needs to be examined carefully to now tease out the technical functions from the rest of the process, which was performed entirely by the pharmacist up until now.

**Two suggested workflow options are presented here;** one for usual dispensary workflow, and the second for an injection clinic designed to provide injections to high patient volumes (e.g., COVID-19 vaccines or influenza vaccines). These options are not the only ones, and pharmacy teams are encouraged to develop processes which work well at their practice site, ensuring all pharmacy team members work within their own scope of practice.

**Workflow Option 1:** Adjustment to usual dispensary workflow (pharmacist assessing/counselling for injections alongside usual dispensing activities). COVID-19 vaccination is used in this example given this is a frequent immunization in community settings at time of writing.

**Steps:**

1. Patient received at prescription “input” station by staff (assistant or professional) with vaccine consent form and initial (COVID-19 questions) screening.
  - Perhaps entered into software at this point.
  - Patient is provided with any appropriate pre-injection information to review prior to speaking with the pharmacist.
  - Perhaps send patient to “assessment” station (e.g., semi-private consultation area) to await pharmacist.
2. Pharmacist assesses patient
  - Reviews patient data (patient file, EHR, consent form, verbal information from patient).
  - Reviews vaccine assessment questions with patient.
  - Provides patient education and opportunity for questions.
  - Establishes and documents consent from patient.
  - Perhaps send patient to “administration” station (e.g., private consultation room).
3. Pharmacy technician prepares and administers vaccine. Sends patient to “observation” station.
4. Patient waits 15 minutes in observation area or nearby, accessible by either pharmacist or pharmacy technician in case emergency aftercare is required.

In this type of scenario, the pharmacist can assess the patient requesting injections interspersed with the usual dispensary workflow. The pharmacist can meet the patient at, for example, the semiprivate counselling area for screening/education; again, incorporated into the provision of patient counselling to other (non-injection) patients. Prescription volume and other responsibilities will influence staffing needs and pharmacist overlap should be considered.

**Workflow Option 2:** Pharmacist/pharmacy technician team in vaccination area, with or without additional unregulated employees, out of dispensary workflow. The following is a suggested process only. Suggest: injection clinic designed to provide injections to high patient volumes (e.g., COVID-19 vaccines or influenza vaccines).

**Steps:**

1. Patient received by pharmacist or unregulated employee; given consent form and initial (COVID-19 questions) screening.
  - Perhaps entered into software at this point.
  - Patient is provided with any appropriate pre-injection information to review
2. Patient returns to/meets with pharmacist with completed consent form for pharmacist assessment.
  - Pharmacist reviews patient data (patient file, EHR, consent form and verbal information from patient).
  - Reviews vaccine assessment questions with patient.
  - Provides patient education and opportunity for questions.

- Establishes and documents consent from patient.
  - Patient sent to administration area where pharmacy technician is available to provide injection
3. Pharmacy technician prepares and administers vaccine. Sends patient to “observation” station.
  4. Patient waits 15 minutes in observation area or nearby, accessible by either pharmacist or pharmacy technician, in case emergency aftercare is required.

This requires a dedicated pharmacy technician and pharmacist, but unlike the current model where pharmacists perform all tasks, volume of injections provided could be much greater, as the pharmacist is not required to do any of the technical components. Multiple pharmacy technicians may receive patients for injections from a single pharmacist.

## OTHER

**Q. For patients receiving an injection as a part of an ongoing series, the patient has already been assessed numerous times by a pharmacist. Is it really required every time a patient presents for their injection?**

**Yes.** A patient who presents to have an injection as part of an ongoing series must be assessed by a pharmacist prior to receiving the injection. This assessment determines whether the injection will be safe and effective for that patient at the time of presentation.

The Policy states, “A pharmacy technician may only administer an injection **after** a pharmacist has completed the patient assessment to determine the appropriateness of the therapy to be injected.”

**Q. What is the difference between an “Authorization” and a “Technical Permit” to administer injections?**

The distinction has to do with the scope of practice for pharmacy technicians and pharmacists.

A pharmacist must assess the patient in the context of the drug therapy (in this case, injections), plan the care (including timing of the administration), follow-up regarding safety and efficacy and educate the patient regarding effectiveness, safety and adherence. **Pharmacists are issued an Authorization to Administer Injections.**

A pharmacy technician may only complete the **technical** component of administering an injection and any care subsequent to an adverse reaction. The technical component includes preparing the medication to be injected and administering the injection to the patient. **Pharmacy Technicians are issued a Technical Permit to Administer Injections.**