



**New Zealand Hospital Pharmacy Association Incorporated**  
Te Kāhui Whakarite Rongoā Hōhipera o Aotearoa

## **Position Statement**

### **Extended roles for pharmacy technicians**

The New Zealand Hospital Pharmacy Association (NZHPA) strongly supports the extension of pharmacy technician roles beyond traditional functions. Pharmacy technicians are recognised pharmacy professionals who work alongside and in collaboration with pharmacists.

Within hospital pharmacy, pharmacy technician roles have traditionally encompassed dispensing, ward supply functions, and aspects of extemporaneous (aseptic and non-aseptic) compounding. The health sector requires pharmacy as a profession to expand its patient focused services. However, as there are insufficient pharmacists to do all that is expected and a significant increase in pharmacist numbers is unlikely, the profession will need to adjust its current skill mix. This will involve enabling pharmacy technicians and pharmacists to work at the top of their scope of practice which in turn will increase both pharmacists' and pharmacy technicians' personal job satisfaction leading to greater retention of staff, and enhanced medicines management services to patients.

The potential to expand pharmacy technicians' roles to allow them to contribute more broadly to pharmacy service provision is vast.

Extended roles for pharmacy technicians are already in practice around the country. They include, but are not limited to:

- Greater involvement in procurement, stock, and medicine list management, checking of compounded and dispensed medicines.
- Medication history taking (as part of the medicine reconciliation process), assessment of patient self-medication administration processes, patient counseling, discharge prescription checking, or specific medicine monitoring (e.g., clozapine or warfarin monitoring).
- Involvement in electronic systems e.g., dispensing, stock management, ePrescribing, informatics.
- Increased involvement in education and training, staff and service management and service development including quality improvement initiatives.
- Pharmacy Accuracy Checking Technicians.
- Leadership and management roles.

The expansion into these roles is facilitated by pharmacy technicians who are suitably qualified and accorded. The development of the PACT programme and availability of the Level 6 qualification for technicians promotes the further professional growth of the technician workforce. Implementation and uptake of this or similar qualifications should be encouraged by pharmacy managers, hospital management and policy makers.

#### **NZ Hospital Pharmacists' Association**

Mailing address PO Box 11-640, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

Level 10, Grand Arcade Tower, 16-20 Willis Street, Wellington

☎ (04) 802 0030 📞 (04) 382 9297 ✉ [nzhp@psnz.org.nz](mailto:nzhp@psnz.org.nz) 🌐 [www.nzhp.org.nz](http://www.nzhp.org.nz)





NZHPA would also like to see changes made to the definition of 'direct supervision' to enable some of these roles and the registration of pharmacy technicians to recognise the increase professional responsibility and accountability within these extended roles.

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