

## **Pharmacy Interns**

### **Learning Objectives:**

After completing this lesson, the pharmacist will be able to:

1. Discuss requirements for becoming and functioning as a pharmacy intern.
2. Discuss requirements for reporting hours as a pharmacy intern.
3. Discuss duties performed by pharmacy interns.
4. Discuss requirements for functioning as a preceptor.

### **Background**

Pharmacy internships play an important role in the profession of pharmacy. Both the intern and the preceptor have something to gain. The participating intern gains valuable hands-on experience and the type of exposure that simply can not be completely duplicated in a classroom setting. The participating preceptor (and employer for the preceptor where there is one) gains an extra pair of hands and welcome assistance in completing the day's responsibilities. Because the intern will typically view his role as an intern as preparation for a professional future, he will likely be eager and interested in pharmacy practice - and becoming proficient at it. The role as an intern is an important stepping stone in professional socialization.

### **Intern-Preceptor Relationship**

A pharmacy internship is the supervised practical experience required for licensure as a registered pharmacist. The purpose of the pharmacy internship program is to provide those individuals, who intend to become registered pharmacists, with the knowledge and practical experience necessary for functioning competently and effectively upon licensure as a pharmacist. A preceptor is required in order to carry out the pharmacy internship.

The preceptor is the individual responsible for seeing that the intern is properly supervised and exposed to all aspects of an internship program. To qualify as a preceptor, the person must be a pharmacist who holds a current identification card which is in good standing. A review of recent Board hearings and decisions shows that

pharmacists who are found to be guilty of violating Board of Pharmacy rules or are otherwise disciplined are limited in their ability to be a preceptor. The preceptor may also be a person who is of good moral character and is qualified to direct the approved experience at a site other than a pharmacy licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs. Up to five hundred hours of the internship credit may be obtained outside the typical pharmacy practice setting - as provided for in OAC 4729-3-05 (D) and approved by the director of internship.

**The Intern 4729-3-03**

By definition, the role of a pharmacy intern is a temporary one. A person may become an intern for the purpose of obtaining the practical experience required for examination and registration as a pharmacist. While a person may pursue as a terminal career goal the position of a pharmacy technician, the same can not be said of the position of a pharmacy intern. To originally register as a pharmacy intern, the applicant must submit the following to the state board of pharmacy:

- A completed application form as provided by the board;
- A head and shoulders photograph taken within the previous six months;
- Fee;
- An original transcript certifying that the applicant has in fact successfully completed a minimum of sixty semester or ninety quarter hours of college work ; and
- A certificate of enrollment from a school of pharmacy certifying that the person is enrolled in a school of pharmacy and has begun taking professional classes directly related to the practice of pharmacy.

In the event the Applicant already has a degree and is not enrolled in a school of pharmacy and actively working towards the requirements for licensure as a pharmacist, the transcript and certificate of enrollment need not be included. Instead, the Applicant must submit:

- Certification of having obtained a first professional degree in pharmacy from a program that has been recognized and approved by the state board of pharmacy; or
- Certification of having established educational equivalency by obtaining a "Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Commission (FPGEC)" certificate, and evidence of successful completion of the "Test of Spoken English (TSE)" or its board approved equivalent pursuant to rule 4729-5-34 of the Administrative Code.

### **Identification Cards and Renewal 4729-3-04**

A registered intern will receive an identification card and must sign and possess the identification card while working as an intern. A pharmacy intern may renew his/her identification card each year provided he/she is taking professional classes directly related to the practice of pharmacy and otherwise meets the requirements and rules of the state board of pharmacy. The Board may, pursuant to rule 4729-5-04 of the Administrative Code, deny the issuance of an identification card to practice pharmacy as an intern. The identification card might be denied, and admission to the licensure examination might also be denied, if the intern or applicant:

- Has been convicted of a felony;
- Has been convicted of violating any state or federal pharmacy or drug law;
- Is not of good moral character and habits;
- Is addicted to or abusing liquor or drugs;
- Has been disciplined by the Ohio state board of pharmacy pursuant to section 4729.16 of the Revised Code; or
- Has been disciplined by any board of pharmacy.

If the pharmacy intern has a legal change of name, the intern must report the change to the board of pharmacy within sixty days from the effective date of the change. Such notification of a name change must be accompanied by one of the following:

- A notarized affidavit;
- A certified copy of a court record;

- A certified copy of a marriage certificate.

Each pharmacy intern, to whom an identification card or renewal identification card has been issued, must immediately sign the identification card. An applicant for renewal of a pharmacy intern identification card must complete the questionnaire. A pharmacy intern may renew his/her identification card each year provided he/she is taking professional classes directly related to the practice of pharmacy and otherwise meets the requirements and rules of the state board of pharmacy. The state board of pharmacy may, pursuant to rule 4729-5-04 of the Administrative Code, deny the issuance of an identification card to practice pharmacy as an intern.

An intern will be considered to be actively working towards licensure as a pharmacist if the intern has complied with all of the statutes and rules regarding internship since registration as a pharmacy intern, and:

- is enrolled in a school of pharmacy and is taking professional classes directly related to the practice of pharmacy; or
- is a member of the armed forces and can provide evidence that he/she has been accepted for enrollment in a school of pharmacy upon his/her release from the armed forces.

An intern who has obtained a first professional degree in pharmacy from a school of pharmacy, or who has established equivalency by obtaining a “Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Commission (FPGEC)” certificate, may renew his/her license only once. In the event of extraordinary circumstances and when due to no fault of the intern, the board may approve additional renewals.

### **Internship Credit 4729-3-05**

Earning and documenting internship credit changed effective April 27, 2007. The changes went into effect at least in part to simplify the process and because students typically earn many internship hours during their pharmacy school externships and clerkships as students complete a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. The pharmacy

internship credit requirement for the licensure examinations is deemed satisfactorily completed when the intern has:

- Successfully graduated after December 31, 2006 with a doctor of pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) from a school of pharmacy approved by the “Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (A.C.P.E.)” and the state board of pharmacy; or
- Obtained a total of at least one thousand five hundred hours of documented supervised practical experience accepted by the state board of pharmacy which may include any hours:
  - Documented on a practical experience affidavit pursuant to rule 4729-3-06 of the Administrative Code; or
  - Worked in another state where that state board of pharmacy submits official verification of the actual practical experience contact hours worked to the Ohio board of pharmacy.

No internship credit will be granted by the board for practical experience until a foreign pharmacy graduate has established educational equivalency by obtaining a “Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Commission (FPGEC)” certificate, and has established proficiency in spoken English by successfully completing the “Test of Spoken English (TSE)” or its board approved equivalent pursuant to rule 4729-5-34 of the Administrative Code.

As the profession changes, some students would like to obtain practical experience outside of traditional pharmacy practice settings. Practical experience obtained with one or more practical experience affidavits may include up to five hundred hours of internship credit at a site other than a pharmacy licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (e.g., manufacturing, research, consulting, drug information, and drug utilization review). To receive credit for such experience, a formal request must be submitted to the director of internship for approval prior to beginning the experience in these areas. The request must include a detailed description of the contemplated internship with respect to time, place, duties, responsibilities, professional supervision,

and the person supervising the experience. The request must be signed by both the intern and the person supervising the experience and returned with a completed statement of preceptor form. If approved by the board, the hours must be documented using a practical experience affidavit pursuant to rule 4729-3-06 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Internship credit may be denied for the practical experience accumulated when an intern is found to be guilty of violation(s) pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4729.16. A violation of Ohio Revised Code 4729.16 may be found after notice and hearing if the board finds a pharmacy intern:

- Guilty of a felony or gross immorality;
- Guilty of dishonesty or unprofessional conduct in the practice of pharmacy;
- Addicted to or abusing liquor or drugs or impaired physically or mentally to such a degree as to render the pharmacist or pharmacy intern unfit to practice pharmacy;
- Has been convicted of a misdemeanor related to, or committed in, the practice of pharmacy;
- Guilty of willfully violating, conspiring to violate, attempting to violate, or aiding and abetting the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, sections 3715.52 to 3715.72 of the Revised Code, Chapter 2925. or 3719. of the Revised Code, or any rule adopted by the board under those provisions;
- Guilty of permitting anyone other than a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to practice pharmacy;
- Guilty of knowingly lending the pharmacist's or pharmacy intern's name to an illegal practitioner of pharmacy or having professional connection with an illegal practitioner of pharmacy;
- Guilty of dividing or agreeing to divide remuneration made in the practice of pharmacy with any other individual, including, but not limited to, any licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs or any owner, manager, or employee of a health care facility, residential care facility, or nursing home;
- Has violated the terms of a consult agreement entered into pursuant to section 4729.39 of the Revised Code;

- Has committed fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in applying for or securing a license or identification card issued by the board under this chapter or under Chapter 3715. or 3719. of the Revised Code.

“Unprofessional conduct in the practice of pharmacy” includes any of the following:

- Advertising or displaying signs that promote dangerous drugs to the public in a manner that is false or misleading;
- Except as provided in section 4729.281 [4729.28.1] of the Revised Code, the sale of any drug for which a prescription is required, without having received a prescription for the drug;
- Knowingly dispensing medication pursuant to false or forged prescriptions;
- Knowingly failing to maintain complete and accurate records of all dangerous drugs received or dispensed in compliance with federal laws and regulations and state laws and rules;
- Obtaining any remuneration by fraud, misrepresentation, or deception.

Any intern whose identification card is revoked, suspended, or refused, must return the intern’s identification card and license to the offices of the board of pharmacy within ten days after receipt of notice of such action.

**Statement of Preceptor And Practical Experience Affidavit 4729-3-06**

This rule regarding documenting experience is new. At the beginning of internship, or if there is a change in preceptor or employment site, the intern must submit a completed statement of preceptor form within thirty days of the occurrence to the state board of pharmacy. The filing of a statement of preceptor form is not required for a change of preceptor or internship site related to a school of pharmacy academic program. If an intern has graduated after December 31, 2006 without obtaining a doctor of pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) from a school of pharmacy approved by the “Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (A.C.P.E.)” and the board of pharmacy, the intern must obtain one thousand five hundred hours of supervised practical experience, pursuant to paragraphs (A)(2), (B), and (C) of rule 4729-3-05 of the Administrative Code, to satisfy the requirement to take licensure examinations.

The intern is responsible for submitting two required types of forms to certify the hours and supervision – a “statement of preceptor form” and a practical experience affidavit form. A statement of preceptor form must be received by the state board of pharmacy for each pharmacy intern within thirty days of beginning internship under a preceptor's supervision. No credit will be given for practical experience obtained prior to thirty days of the date that the statement of preceptor form is received by the board office; except, in the event of extraordinary circumstances and when due to no fault of the intern, the board may accept a retroactive date of filing for the statement of preceptor. The intern must file a statement of preceptor form whenever he/she changes internship sites and/or preceptors.

A practical experience affidavit form must be used to submit evidence of practical experience for internship credit. Practical experience reported on the affidavit shall be the total number of actual clock hours worked during the reported time period rounded to the nearest hour. The hours reported must be able to be documented by payroll or other records which may be examined by the state board of pharmacy upon reasonable notice. Practical experience affidavits must be signed by the preceptor and submitted to the state board of pharmacy. In the event of the unavailability of the preceptor's signature due to extraordinary circumstances and due to no fault of the intern, the board may accept an alternative method for verification of a practical experience affidavit. Practical experience affidavits for a calendar year may be submitted at any time, except that they must be received in the board office or postmarked no later than the first day of March of the following year. No internship credit shall be granted by the board for practical experience obtained before registration as an intern or during a period when the intern's registration has lapsed. Statement of preceptor and practical experience affidavit forms may also be used to document any additional hours desired by the intern.

### **Web Resources**

The Board website includes a number of useful resources for the intern:

Change of address form: <http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/change-address-0413-0308.pdf>

Change of name form: <http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/change-name-0412-0308.pdf>

Intern Application form: <http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/appl-intern-0100-0502.pdf>

Statement of Preceptor form: <http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/SOP-0102-0308.pdf>

Practical Experience Affidavit form: <http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/PracExpAff-0103-0404.pdf>

Application for Examination as a Pharmacist form: <http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/appl-exam-0201-0308.pdf>

Interns are responsible for the complete and timely filing of all required internship forms and documents. Practical Experience Affidavits must be received in the Board office no later than March first of the year following the date the hours were worked. The Board office will send a copy of the original to the intern stating the number of hours accepted at the bottom. If the intern does not receive the statement from the Board within 30 days, the intern should contact the Board office by telephone. Each pharmacy intern must also file with the Board a Statement of Preceptor form within 30 days after beginning training under a preceptor's supervision. No credit will be given for practical experience obtained prior to 30 days of the date that the Statement of Preceptor form is received by the Board office.

### **Intern Tasks**

Interns perform a myriad of important and useful tasks under the supervision of the pharmacist. Two common tasks, which differentiate the pharmacy intern from the pharmacy technician, are telephone prescriptions and transfer [copy] prescriptions. Ohio Administrative Code 4729-5-30 (D)(3) provides that an intern can receive the oral telephone prescription if the pharmacist on duty who is supervising the activity of the intern determines that the intern is competent to receive telephone prescriptions. The rule clearly contemplates that only the “pharmacist on duty who is supervising the activity of the intern” can make the judgment concerning the intern’s level of competence. Though the rule does not specifically require such, it would seem to be a good idea for the intern and pharmacist to discuss ahead of time whether the intern will be permitted to receive telephone prescriptions while being supervised by any particular pharmacist.

Ohio Administrative Code 4729-5-21 (D) (3) provides additional guidance for interns and oral prescriptions. The rule provides that the intern must immediately reduce the prescription to writing, document the full name of the prescriber and, if transmitted by the prescriber's agent, the full name of the agent, and shall review the prescription with the supervising pharmacist. Prior to dispensing, positive identification of the intern and the supervising pharmacist shall be made on the prescription to identify the responsibility for the receipt of the oral order. The supervising pharmacist on duty is responsible for the accuracy of the prescription. The supervising pharmacist on duty must be immediately available to answer questions or discuss the prescription with the caller.

Ohio Administrative Code 4729-5-24 (G) provides guidance when interns send or receive copies of transfer prescriptions.

- The pharmacist on duty who is supervising the activity of the intern will determine if the intern is competent to send or receive a prescription copy.
- The pharmacist on duty who is supervising the activity of the intern is responsible for the accuracy of a prescription copy that is sent or received by an intern.
- The supervising pharmacist must be immediately available to answer questions or discuss the prescription copy that is sent or received by an intern.
- The intern may not send or receive a prescription copy for a controlled substance.
- The pharmacist or intern receiving a prescription copy from an intern must document the full names of the sending intern and his/her supervising pharmacist. The receiving intern shall immediately reduce the prescription copy to writing and shall review the prescription with the supervising pharmacist. Prior to dispensing, positive identification of the intern and the supervising pharmacist shall be made on the prescription to identify the responsibility for the receipt of the copy.
- The pharmacist or intern sending a prescription copy to an intern must document the full names of the receiving intern and his/her supervising pharmacist. There must be documented positive identification of the sending intern and his/her supervising pharmacist who authorized the transfer of the prescription copy.

Interns may also counsel patients. Ohio Administrative Code 4729-5-22 provides that either the pharmacist, or an intern under the personal supervision of a pharmacist, must counsel a patient or caregiver whenever any prescription, new or refill, is dispensed.

Interns may engage in dispensing and compounding. Ohio Administrative Code 4729-5-25

provides that either a pharmacist, or pharmacy intern under the personal supervision of a pharmacist, is permitted to engage in dispensing and compounding. Ohio Administrative Code 4729-11-09 provides that a schedule V controlled substance product which is not a prescription drug as determined under the “Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act” may be sold at retail by a pharmacist without a prescription to a purchaser at retail, provided that the sale is made only by a pharmacist or a pharmacy intern under the direct supervision of a pharmacist and not by a non-pharmacist employee even if under the supervision of a pharmacist.

### **Conclusion**

The Board has adopted specific rules for becoming an intern and reporting experience for internship credit. Identification Cards and Renewal are important parts of continuing the role as intern. One thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of supervised practical experience is required to sit for the pharmacist licensure examination. Like any pharmacy credential, the intern credential is overseen by the Board and can be revoked upon finding of specified misconduct after notice and hearing.

**Questions**

1. To apply for registration as a pharmacy intern, the applicant must provide an original transcript certifying that the applicant has in fact successfully completed a minimum forty eight semester hours.  
a. True                      b. false
  
2. To apply for registration as a pharmacy intern the applicant needs be enrolled in a pre-pharmacy program and actively working towards the requirements for licensure as a pharmacist.  
a. True                      b. false
  
3. The number of hours of the internship credit that may be obtained outside the typical pharmacy practice setting is:  
(a) 100  
(b) 250  
(c) 500  
(d) 1000  
(e) 1500
  
4. The number of hours of supervised practical experience required to sit for the pharmacist licensure examination is:  
(a) 100  
(b) 250  
(c) 500  
(d) 1000  
(e) 1500
  
5. Internship credit will be granted by the board for practical experience obtained before registration as an intern or during a period if the intern's registration has lapsed.  
a. True                      b. false
  
6. Unprofessional conduct in the practice of pharmacy includes  
a. Advertising or displaying signs that promote dangerous drugs to the public in a manner that is false or misleading  
b. Knowingly dispensing medication pursuant to false or forged prescriptions  
c. Knowingly failing to maintain complete and accurate records of all dangerous drugs received or dispensed in compliance with federal laws and regulations and state laws and rules  
d. Obtaining any remuneration by fraud, misrepresentation, or deception  
e. All of the above
  
7. Internship credit will be granted only when an intern obtains a passing grade for the academic practical experience course.  
a. True                      b. false

8. The intern identification card might be denied, and admission to the licensure examination might also be denied, if the intern or applicant:
- a. Has been convicted of violating any state or federal pharmacy or drug law;
  - b. Is not of good moral character and habits;
  - c. Is addicted to or abusing liquor or drugs;
  - d. Has been disciplined by any board of pharmacy
  - e. All of the above
9. To originally register as a pharmacy intern, the applicant must submit the following to the state board of pharmacy:
- a. A completed application form as provided by the board;
  - b. A head and shoulders photograph taken within the previous six months;
  - c. Fee;
  - d. A certificate of enrollment into a school of pharmacy certifying that the person is enrolled in a school of pharmacy and has begun taking professional classes directly related to the practice of pharmacy.
  - e. All of the above
10. To qualify as a preceptor, the person must be a pharmacist who holds a current identification card which is in good standing.
- a. True
  - b. false

Pharmacy Interns



Lesson number 036-368-07-001-H03 Answer Sheet: Expires September 30, 2010

Approved for one contact hour of Ohio Jurisprudence by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy

**PHARMACY INTERNS**

Answer Sheet – circle the one correct best answer. Credit will be granted with seven correct answers.

| Question | Answer     | Question | Answer     |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| 1        | True False | 6        | A B C D E  |
| 2        | True False | 7        | True False |
| 3        | A B C D E  | 8        | A B C D E  |
| 4        | A B C D E  | 9        | A B C D E  |
| 5        | True False | 10       | True False |



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Please fax, e-mail, or mail [specify one, please] my continuing education certificate to:

Pharmacist Name \_\_\_\_\_

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E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Ohio Pharmacist License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check one:

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No, Do not e-mail me your **free** pharmacy law newsletter

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Program Evaluation (circle one response to each question):

- How would you rate this educational program overall?  
 excellent | very good | Good | Fair | Poor
- How well did this program achieve its educational objectives?  
 excellent | very good | Good | Fair | Poor
- How well did this program improve your knowledge of the subject matter?  
 excellent | very good | Good | Fair | Poor
- How useful and relevant will this lesson be in your practice?  
 Very | Somewhat | Not much | Not at all
- About how much time did it take you to complete the lesson and exam?  
 30 minutes | 45 minutes | 60 minutes | 90 minutes | Over 90 minutes