

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

- (1) A pharmacy technician may provide or perform the following services or acts under the direct personal supervision of a pharmacist and in accordance with rules relating to good pharmacy practice, and where applicable, rules relating the good manufacturing practice and the rules relating to good wholesale and distribution practice as determined in terms of the Medicines Act:
  - (a) assist with the manufacturing, compounding, manipulation or preparation of a non-sterile or sterile medicine or scheduled substance, in accordance with the Medicines Act, by performing the following functions:
    - (i) the weighing of materials including schedule 1 to 6 substances;
    - (ii) the checking and signing of the addition of materials to the mix after the pharmacist has checked each mass or volume and signed for each dispensed material in accordance with the Batch Manufacturing Document or prescription and in compliance with standard operating procedures;
    - (iii) checking the identity of the bulk product and its identity label after the pharmacist has checked and signed in accordance with the Batch Manufacturing Document or prescription and in compliance with standard operating procedures;
    - (iv) start-up line clearance and opening of the line as per documented procedure and detailed checklist: Provided that the pharmacist has provided the necessary signed authorisation therefore;
    - (v) in process control during manufacture of Schedule 0 to 6 medicines or scheduled substances: Provided that the pharmacist does periodic checks in accordance with standard operating procedures and that final line closure is signed off by the pharmacist;

- (vi) reconciliation of documents of Schedule 0 to 6 medicines or scheduled substances provided that the final release of the product is performed by a pharmacist;
- (b) the packaging and re-packaging of Schedule 0 to Schedule 5 (excluding Specified Schedule 5) medicines or scheduled substances, in accordance with the Medicines Act, including-
  - (i) checking and signing the identity of the bulk product and printed packaging material in accordance with the Batch Manufacturing Document and in compliance with standard operating procedures;
  - (ii) start-up line clearance and opening of the packaging line in accordance with standard operating procedures and detailed checklist: Provided that the pharmacist has provided the necessary signed authorisation therefor;
  - (iii) in process control during packaging and re-packaging of Schedule 0 to Schedule 5 (excluding Specified Schedule 5) medicines or scheduled substances: Provided that the pharmacist does periodic checks in accordance with standard operating procedures and that final line closure is signed off by the pharmacist;
- (c) the sampling, or supervision of the sampling of medicines or scheduled substances in accordance with rules relating to good manufacturing practice;
- (d) picking, packing and despatch of orders for Schedule 1 to Schedule 5 medicines or scheduled substances: Provided that orders that contain schedule 5 medicines are validated by a pharmacist prior to release thereof;
- (e) the checking of orders containing Schedule 1 to 4 medicines in closed packs, prior to the packing and despatch thereof, which have been picked by a pharmacy technical assistant or pharmacist's assistant, as well as the supervision of such persons: Provided that this function may only be performed in a manufacturing pharmacy, wholesale pharmacy or bulk store of an institutional pharmacy;

- (f) assist with the management of stock of Schedule 1 to Schedule 5 medicines or scheduled substances: Provided that orders that contain medicines which fall into schedule 5 are validated by a pharmacist;
- (g) the ordering and receipt of Schedule 1 to Schedule 5 medicines or scheduled substances: Provided that orders that contain schedule 5 medicines are validated by a pharmacist;
- (h) the sale of Schedule 1 and 2 medicines without the prescription from an authorised prescriber, provided that the supply of a Schedule 2 medicine takes place in consultation with a pharmacist;
- (i) the dispensing of Schedule 1, 2, 3 and 4 medicines or scheduled substances (i.e. the selection, manipulation or compounding of the medicine, the labelling and packing of the medicine in an appropriate container and the provision of information to a patient, caregiver or the agent of a patient regarding the correct use of medicine to optimise therapeutic outcomes) on the prescription of an authorised prescriber: Provided that the pharmacist interprets and evaluates the prescription;
- (j) the selection or preparation of a Schedule 5 medicines or scheduled substances prescribed by an authorised prescriber and the labelling of an appropriate container, following the interpretation and evaluation of the prescription by a pharmacist;
- (k) general housekeeping and administrative tasks in the pharmacy as specified by the responsible pharmacist;
- (l) supervision of pharmacist's assistants, pharmacy technical assistants, and trainee pharmacist's assistants, pharmacy technical assistants and pharmacy technicians, as specified by the responsible pharmacist;
- (m) the provision of technical support in the provision of screening tests provided that where an interpretation of results is required this is done by a pharmacist;

- (2) A pharmacy technician may provide or perform the following services or acts under the supervision of a pharmacist who may not be physically present in the dispensary in a primary health care clinic and in accordance with rules relating good pharmacy practice:
- (a) the ordering and receipt of Schedule 1 to Schedule 6 medicines or scheduled substances, provided that orders that contain schedule 5 and above medicines are validated by a pharmacist;
  - (b) the management of stock of Schedule 1 to Schedule 6 medicines or scheduled substances: Provided that orders that contain schedule 5 and above medicines are validated by a pharmacist;
  - (c) receive and screen prescription for medicine which appears on the Primary Health Care Essential Medicines List and which is prescribed in accordance with Standard Treatment Guidelines, the selection, manipulation or compounding of the medicine, the labelling and packing of the medicine in an appropriate container and the provision of information to a patient, caregiver or the agent of a patient to optimise therapeutic outcomes;
  - (d) the provision of information to a patient, caregiver or the agent of a patient to optimise therapeutic outcomes resulting from the use of medicines which have been dispensed at a pharmacy and sent to the primary health care clinic for supply to the patient or the patient's agent or caregiver;
  - (e) management of the dispensary, where the dispensary is designated as a dispensary in terms of the rules relating to good pharmacy practice;
  - (f) general housekeeping and administrative tasks in the dispensary as specified by the supervising pharmacist.

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF A PHARMACIST'S ASSISTANT (POST-BASIC)

A pharmacist's assistant registered in the category pharmacist's assistant (post-basic) may perform the following services or acts under the direct personal supervision of a pharmacist in a pharmacy:

- (1) the sale of Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 medicines or scheduled substances;
- (2) assist with the compounding, manipulation or preparation of a non-sterile or sterile medicine or scheduled substance according to a formula and standard operating procedures approved by the responsible pharmacist;
- (3) assist with the manufacturing of a non-sterile or sterile medicine or scheduled substance according to a formula and standard operating procedures approved by the responsible pharmacist;
- (4) the re-packaging of medicine;
- (5) the distribution and control of stock of Schedule 1 to Schedule 7 medicines or scheduled substances;
- (6) the ordering of medicine and scheduled substances up to and including Schedule 7 according to an instruction of a person authorised in terms of the Medicines Act to purchase or obtain such medicine or scheduled substance;
- (7) the reading and preparation of a prescription, the selection, manipulation or compounding of the medicine, the labelling and supply of the medicine in an appropriate container following the interpretation and evaluation of the prescription by a pharmacist;
- (8) the provision of instructions regarding the correct use of medicine supplied; and
- (9) the provision of information to individuals in order to promote health.

Notwithstanding the provisions in regulation 11, a pharmacist's assistant registered in the category pharmacist's assistant (post-basic) may perform the acts or provide services as prescribed in subregulations 11 (5), 11 (6), 11 (8) and 11 (9), as well as the reading and preparation of a prescription, the selection, manipulation or compounding of medicine and the labelling and supply of medicine in an appropriate container under the indirect personal supervision of a pharmacist: provided that such indirect personal supervision will take place only under the following circumstances:



## South African Pharmacy Council

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- (1) the services are provided or acts are performed at a primary health care clinic or any other facility as approved by council;
- (2) only re-packaged medicines or patient ready packs are provided;
- (3) written and updated protocols and standard operating procedures are available describing clearly the responsibility of the pharmacist's assistant and pharmacist under whose indirect personal supervision the pharmacist's assistant performs the acts and provides the services; and
- (4) the pharmacist under whose indirect personal supervision the pharmacist's assistant performs the acts and provides the services visits the pharmacist's assistant at the primary health care clinic or other facility as approved by council for purposes of supervision and support, which visits must be documented and take place at least once a month.



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**SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF A PHARMACIST'S ASSISTANT (BASIC)** - A pharmacist's assistant registered in the category pharmacist's assistant (basic) may perform the following services or acts under the direct personal supervision of a pharmacist in a pharmacy:

- (1) the sale of Schedule 1 medicines or scheduled substances;
- (2) assist with the compounding, manipulation or preparation of a non-sterile medicine or scheduled substance according to a formula and standard operating procedures approved by the responsible pharmacist;
- (3) assist with the manufacturing of a non-sterile medicine or scheduled substance according to a formula and standard operating procedures approved by the responsible pharmacist;
- (4) the re-packaging of medicine;
- (5) the distribution and control of stock of Schedule 1 to Schedule 6 medicines or scheduled substances; and
- (6) the provision of information to individuals in order to promote health.