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Over 25,000 Pharmacists and Technicians Access PTCB Funded Web-Based Continuing Education Programs

Washington, D.C., July 17, 2009 – The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) is proud to announce that over 25,000 pharmacists and technicians have accessed two web-based and podcast continuing education (CE) programs developed in collaboration with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and funded by PTCB. The two programs, “Pharmacy Technician Roles in Sterile IV Compounding: Challenges, Opportunities, and Competencies” and “Pharmacy Technician Certification: Trained, Tested, Trusted” were developed to meet identified unmet educational needs of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists and are offered free of charge.

Launched in March 2009, “Pharmacy Technician Roles in Sterile IV Compounding: Challenges, Opportunities and Competencies” addresses the role of pharmacy technicians in meeting and exceeding state and national regulations on sterile IV compounding. The program’s faculty highlights the opportunities available for pharmacy technicians in sterile IV compounding, and the impact pharmacy technicians may have on patient safety, regulatory compliance, and efficiency. “Pharmacy Technician Certification: Trained, Tested, Trusted” was launched in 2008. This program provides valuable information about the evolving roles of pharmacy technicians as part of the pharmacy team and an overview about training, certification, and regulation of pharmacy technicians.

These value-added continuing education offerings are posted on the PTCB and ASHP Web sites and feature presentations by Melissa Murer Corrigan, R.Ph., Executive Director and CEO of PTCB who was actively involved in the development of both programs.

“We are excited about the record number of participants who have accessed these online CE programs that address pertinent issues for pharmacy technicians **and pharmacy practice**,” said Ms. Murer Corrigan. “The success rate of these programs clearly indicates the interest in high-quality CE programs designed to highlight new and evolving roles for well-trained and **PTCB** certified pharmacy technicians. PTCB has certified over 339,000 pharmacy technicians since 1995.”

In addition to Melissa Murer Corrigan, RPh, participating faculty in the two programs include:

- Gay Dodson, R.Ph.; Executive Director/Secretary Texas State Board of Pharmacy;
- Barbara Hintzen, Inpatient Pharmacy Operations Manager, University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview and University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview;
- Melissa Madigan, Pharm.D., J.D.; Policy and Communications Senior Manager National Association of Boards of Pharmacy;

- Bruce Scott, R.Ph., MS, FASHP; Chief Pharmacist and Senior Vice President
Medco Health Solutions, Inc.;
- Angela Turner Cassano, Pharm.D., BCPS, President, Pharmfusion Consulting, LLC

Both programs provide continuing education credit which is available through ASHP until 2010. ASHP is an accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. The programs and podcasts can be accessed at www.ptcb.org under the Quick Link for Continuing Education.

Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhTs) recertify through PTCB every two years by earning a minimum of twenty contact hours of CE in pharmacy-related topics. At least one of the twenty hours must be in pharmacy law. For more information about recertification or continuing education requirements, please visit www.ptcb.org

The PTCB national Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination (PTCE) is the only certification program endorsed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

About the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)

PTCB was established in January 1995 and is governed by five pharmacy organizations - the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHP), the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). The goal of the PTCB national certification program is to enable pharmacy technicians to work more effectively with pharmacists to offer safe and effective patient care and service. PTCB contracts with Pearson VUE, the industry's technology leader, as its computer-based testing vendor. PTCB draws upon the experience and expertise of its 13-year partner, Professional Examination Service (PES) for test development.