

UNDERSTANDING CHANGES TO REGISTRATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES

The Ministry of Health has approved changes to the [General regulation](#) under the Pharmacy Act that impact the Ontario College of Pharmacists' (College) registration and quality assurance processes. These changes came into effect on October 1, 2024.

The table below outlines what changed and what stayed the same.

ITEM	PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT	CURRENT ENVIRONMENT (AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024)
Pharmacy students can or must:		
Register with the College	✓	✗ NEW: There is no longer a student class of registration at the College.
Hold personal professional liability insurance	✓	NEW: The College no longer requires students to hold personal professional liability insurance (but it's recommended that you do, and may be a requirement of your school or employer)
Engage in any of the controlled acts within the scope of the pharmacy profession – including dispensing, selling and compounding drugs and other authorized acts – under the supervision of a Part A pharmacist	✓	✓
Administer injections, including the flu shot (if pharmacy is participating in the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) , the supervising pharmacist has registered their injection training with the College, and the student has completed injection training .)	✓	✓
Register as a pharmacy intern with the College after graduating	✓	✓
Complete all registration requirements before submitting a College application to be registered as a pharmacist.	✓	✓ NEW: Pharmacy students must now complete all registration requirements within 2 years before submitting a College application to be registered as a pharmacist.
Pharmacy technician students can or must:		
Engage in the practice of the profession under supervision.	✓	✓
Complete all registration requirements before submitting a College application to be registered as a pharmacy technician.	✓	✓ NEW: Pharmacy technician students must now complete all registration requirements within 2 years before submitting a College application to be registered as a pharmacy technician.
Register as an intern technician with the College after graduation	✗	✓ NEW: The intern technician registration class allows pharmacy technician graduates to perform the authorized acts of the profession as they work to meet the College's practice-based registration requirement. Note intern technicians are not yet authorized to administer the influenza vaccine, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, or Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines.
Pharmacy technicians must:		
Self-declare as a Part A or Part B pharmacy technician, depending on whether they do or do not provide patient care	✗	✓ NEW: There is now a two-part register for pharmacy technicians – Part A for those who provide patient care and Part B for those who do not provide patient care – that aligns with the current two-part register for pharmacists. It recognizes that pharmacy technicians can have different roles in different practice settings.
Participate in the College's Quality Assurance Program	✗	✓ NEW: Part A pharmacy technicians are now formally incorporated into the College's Quality Assurance Program, including the requirement to complete practice assessments, maintain a learning portfolio and complete the self-assessment tool when selected to do so.
Part A registrants must:		
Practice 600 hours within 3 years	✓	✗ NEW: Part A registrants (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) do not need to practice 600 hours in 3 years; instead, they now need to self-declare annually that they have maintained competence to practice and undergo an assessment of competence when selected.
Participate in the College's Quality Assurance Program	✓ Quality Assurance Program participants are randomly selected	✓ NEW: The Quality Assurance Program is introducing risk-based, right-touch selection criteria for program components, including practice assessments.
Supervisors of pharmacy students must:		
Meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a Part A pharmacist • Be physically present if they and the student are practicing in an accredited community pharmacy • Be comfortable providing the level of supervision needed for the student based on their current skills and abilities • Account for the actions of the student under their supervision 	✓	✓
Assess their own abilities, workload, and limitations, to decide how many students they are able to safely supervise at once.	✓	✓
Supervisors of pharmacy technician students must:		
Meet the following criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a Part A pharmacist or a Part A pharmacy technician • Be physically present if they and the student are practicing in an accredited community pharmacy • Be comfortable providing the level of supervision needed for the student based on their current skills and abilities • Account for the actions of the student under their supervision 	✓	✓
Assess their own abilities, workload, and limitations, to decide how many students they are able to safely supervise at once.	✓	✓