

Subgroup: Autonomy

Transfers

- Can faxing be an approved method for prescription transfers?
- If so, can technicians participate in the process?
- Systems must be in place to ensure compliance, including software hard stops for controlled substances.

Product Verification / Tech-Check-Tech

- Policies may be needed to prevent mixing of tablets/capsules.
- Barcode limitations exist (not available at every step).
- Should education level or certification be a prerequisite?
- Opportunity to establish tiered technician roles.
- Differences between retail and inpatient/institutional settings:
 - Community DUR may be tied to verification, limiting Tech-Check-Tech feasibility.
 - 30/90-day supply in retail vs. single-dose in inpatient settings.
 - Potential impact on counseling flags/notes.
- Barcode scanning challenges:
 - OTC products may not be scannable.
 - Multiple stock bottles/packages may be involved.
 - Barcode types (linear vs. 2D) and software configurations may pose limitations.
- Considerations for automation:
 - How does Tech-Check-Tech integrate with filling robots in retail or mail-order settings?

Immunizations

- Current statute (151.01 subd. 27) allows technicians to administer influenza and COVID vaccines to patients aged 3 and older.
- What about other vaccines?
- Need to clarify federal vs. state authority and alignment.

Point-of-Care Testing

- Examples: strep, influenza.
- Proposal: Technician administers the test; pharmacist discusses results with the patient.

New Verbal Prescriptions

- Technicians could take verbal prescriptions **except** for controlled substances.

Work from Home (WFH)

- WFH could benefit on-site technicians by reducing workload.
 - Concerns:
 - Lack of pharmacist supervision.
 - HIPAA compliance.
 - Comparison to central services, which are already allowed via variance.
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Subgroup: Ratios

Facilitator/Notetaker: Josh Teeters, Michelle Aytay

Date: 9/19/25

Attendees:

- Present: Deb Frazey, Josh Teeters, Roseann Hines, Robin Hammer, Michelle Aytay, Aaron Patterson
 - Absent: None
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1. Summary of activities of the meeting:

- Aaron joined the meeting and expressed support for the task force's work and share updates:
- Aaron will share committee updates at the next Board meeting on October 22, 2025 and encouraged taskforce members to attend.
- Michelle reviewed the Task Force Charter to ensure alignment with the committee's mission:
 - Evaluate and identify best practice considerations regarding the use of pharmacy support personnel.
 - Ensure recommendations are applicable to all licensee locations.
 - Make practice recommendations to the MN Board of Pharmacy.
- Subgroup reviewed charter objectives and aligned on the following focus areas:
 - Meet biweekly on Thursdays at 2pm, alternating with large group meetings.
 - Gather stakeholder feedback and add to the shared resource folder created by Michelle.
 - Evaluate appropriate levels or ratios of support personnel.
 - Evaluate supervision methods and levels, including practice-type variations.
 - Evaluate qualifications required for supervision.

- Evaluate autonomy or limits on duties for support personnel.
- Michelle was asked to share notes from 9/19/25 Minimum Qualifications Subcommittee:
 - Topics included age requirements, certification, CE, education/training, reciprocity, technician exam, registration vs. licensure, and tier structure.
- Josh asked members to share goals and concerns:
 - Discussed supervision (direct vs. indirect), autonomy, classifications and tasks, ratios, standard of care, rural settings, technology.
- Roseann shared MPA's prior work and committed to adding materials to the shared folder.
- Michelle asked the group how they felt about adding a technician to the MN Board of Pharmacy.
 - The group supported the idea, aligning with the charter's goal of inclusive representation.

2. Action Items *(Clearly list what needs to be done, who is responsible for doing it, and the deadline.)*

Action Item	Assigned to	Deadline
<i>Add a resource folder to the shared site.</i>	<i>Michelle</i>	<i>9/19/2025 - completed</i>
<i>Gather stakeholder feedback and resources and add to the resources folder on the shared site.</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Complete poll for time available for next large group mtg to be held 9/25/25</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>9/22/25</i>
<i>Email wish lists to Mike and Michelle. These will be collated to assign out work to small groups/individuals to bring back to larger group.</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>9/22/25</i>
<i>The subcommittee will meet next Thursday, 9/25/25 after the large committee meeting to identify next steps and owners.</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>9/25/25</i>
<i>Recap meeting, share with subcommittee to review and add additional notes and file on shared site.</i>	<i>Jeff and Michelle to be reviewed and approved by All</i>	<i>9/19/25</i>

Action Item	Assigned to	Deadline
<i>Schedule future every other week subcommittee meetings to be held on Thursdays at 2pm</i>	Michelle	9/19/2025

3. Next Meeting Date: 9/25/25

Time: TBD – subcommittee will meet directly after large committee meeting

- **Planned Agenda Items:** Subcommittee will take next steps from large committee meeting and divide up to work on prior to 10/2/25 subcommittee meeting.
- **Who is sending virtual meeting invite:** Michelle

Ratio & Supervision

- Outreach to APHA and ASHP for resources.
- Consideration of updates to the Practice Act.

Stakeholder Perspectives

- **Roseann:** Supports increased ratios with increased autonomy. Advocates for flexible supervision to advance the profession.
 - **Deb (LTC):** Favors expanding ratios but keeping them limited. Emphasizes distinction between direct and indirect supervision.
 - **Robin:** Wants clear classification of tasks and corresponding ratios.
 - **Michelle:** Supports a standard-of-care approach—technicians should perform duties they are trained and educated to do under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or intern.
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Subgroup: Minimum Qualifications

Age Requirements & Entry Pathways

- Exploring lowering the minimum age to allow high school entry into technician roles.
- **North Dakota:** Offers “Tech-in-Training” programs in high schools.
- **South Dakota:** Allows entry at age 16 with expected graduation within two years.

- **Minnesota:** Variance requests have been approved for candidates close to the minimum age.
- Discussion included openness to starting at age 16 or 17.

Certification Requirements

- Recognized certifying bodies: **PTCB** and **NHA**.
- Maintenance of certification:
 - Required if tied to tier advancement.
 - Optional if only needed for initial registration.
- Certification could be optional unless part of a tiered system.
- Concerns about mandatory certification creating barriers to entry.
- Advanced certifications (e.g., CPHT-ADV, CSTP) may be used in tier structures.
- **South Dakota:** Requires certification within two years; extensions available if exam is failed.

Continuing Education (CE)

- CE requirements should align with registration status.
- Avoid mandating specific CE topics due to role variability.
 - Note: PTCB requires 1 hour of law and 1 hour of safety.
- CE could be tier-based.
- Number of CE hours is still undecided.
- Interest in Board-funded CE resource group (similar to ND model).

Education & Training

- Entry requires current high school enrollment, diploma, or GED.
- Tier advancement may require training program completion or certification.
- ASHP-accredited programs not required.
- Encourage employer-provided training, including OSHA-related content.
- Consider omitting requirements already covered by other laws/regulations.

Reciprocity

- Support for recognizing technicians from other states with at least two years of experience.

Technician Exam

- General opposition due to cost and variability in practice settings.

Registration vs. Licensure

- Preference for **registration** over **licensure**, with tier-specific distinctions.

Tier Structure

- Proposed tiers:
 - **Tech-in-Training (TNT)**
 - **Pharmacy Technician**
- Concern about bottlenecks due to pharmacist scope expansion and technician support needs.
- A simplified tier structure may help mitigate these issues.