

Becoming an Oncology Certified Pharmacy Technician: Oncology Pharmacy Technician Certification Program

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Background

- The Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association (OPTA) is the first professional association dedicated to supporting and encouraging the professional development of oncology pharmacy technicians. OPTA has quickly grown to a membership of over 1700 oncology pharmacy technicians across the globe
- Oncology healthcare professionals require specific training and education to best benefit their organizations
- Few professional development programs exist, and the current offerings are not specific to the role of an oncology pharmacy technician
- In alignment with the OPTA's Mission Statement, the certification Program was created to advance the professional development of this integral group of professionals.
- NCODA's Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association (OPTA) is best poised to address this unmet need and offer the first-ever Oncology Pharmacy Technician Certification Program

Discussion

- Lack of professional development programs for oncology pharmacy technicians
 - To train a quality technician to provide quality care, an established professional development process that includes formal and informal options is essential
- Reduce the Pharmacist's burden
 - Expanded pharmacy technician roles relieve the pharmacist burden and allow for more focus on clinical interventions, increasing quality care and overall effectiveness
- Continuing Education and Specialized Training
 - Training and standard competencies should be established for the expanding roles of the oncology pharmacy technician.
- This goal will be attained by focusing on relevant and practical training to enhance confidence and quality, recognizing inherent knowledge and dedication to the profession from various thought leaders, and developing an appropriate training and assessment program for oncology pharmacy technicians.

Methods

Eligibility Requirements:

- CPhT
 - Practicing in an oncology pharmacy setting for a minimum of 12 months
- If not CPhT
 - Practicing in an oncology pharmacy setting for a minimum of 24 months



Conclusion

- The purpose of the certification is to implement a sustainable oncology pharmacy technician certification program founded on innovative, high-quality, and evidence-based programming that will raise the standards and optimize the care of individuals affected by cancer.
- The certification will improve patient care by promoting the value of the Certified Oncology Pharmacy Technicians' specialized training, knowledge, and skills in oncology pharmacy.

Objective

Certified Oncology Pharmacy Technician Exam Content Outline

- Domain I - Core Oncology Pharmacy Training-20%
Practical understanding of pharmacy operations, quality assurance, safety compliance ordinances, and pharmacy accreditation regulations with the ability to familiarize the application of oncology pharmacy calculations
- Domain II - Clinical Oncology Skills and Patient Management-30%
Improving the quality of care by managing the side effects of oral oncology medication, ensuring adherence and compliance, and assessing when pharmacist intervention is necessary. Accurately describing and interpreting laboratory values related to oral cancer treatments. Identify radiology studies used to diagnose different types of cancer.
- Domain III - Oncology Pharmacy Billing-20%
Accurately process oral oncology medications as determined by the healthcare plan and indication. Efficiently process and obtain prior authorization, and financial assistance if needed.
- Domain IV - Oral Oncolytics- 30%
Identify the correct brand and generic names of oral cancer medications, along with their indications and appropriate dosages for treatment.



The OPTA logo, featuring a mortar and pestle icon and the text "OPTA" in blue, with the tagline "dispensing positive outcomes" below it. Below the logo, the text reads: "The Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association here by certifies that". A horizontal line follows. Below the line, the text reads: "having satisfied all of the requirements for certification in oncology pharmacy is designated Certified Oncology Pharmacy Technician". At the bottom, there are two signatures: "Michael Reff" and "Ginger Blackmon" on the left, and "Taryn Newsome" on the right. The OPTA logo is repeated at the bottom center.