

BOARD NOTICE 198 OF 2016**SOUTH AFRICAN PHARMACY COUNCIL****QUALIFICATION FOR PHARMACY SUPPORT PERSONNEL****OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE: PHARMACY TECHNICIAN**

The revised qualifications for pharmacist's assistants were to end on 30 June 2015 for the National Certificate: Pharmacist Assistance and 30 June 2016 for the Further Education and Training Certificate: Pharmacist Assistance. The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) extended these qualifications to 30 June 2018 and the teach-out period is until 30 June 2021, in order to allow the development of the new qualifications in the QCTO sub-framework.

In July 2015, Council resolved that the new qualification for the pharmacy support personnel in the QCTO sub-framework consists of part-qualifications, i.e. pharmacist's assistant basic and pharmacist's assistant post-basic, which must lead to the pharmacy technician (PT) qualification. The task team appointed by Council to draft the qualification for the pharmacy support personnel, together with the Health and Welfare SETA and the QCTO, drafted the PT qualification in the QCTO sub-framework. The qualification was approved by Council on 11/12 May 2016 for wider consultation.

The South African government, through both the introduction of National Health Insurance (NHI) and Operation Phakisa, has directed focus on the provision of health care at the primary health care (PHC) level. The re-engineering of the PHC platform is one of the key health reforms that is being implemented as part of the introduction of NHI in South Africa. This includes the optimisation of the delivery of pharmaceutical services at the PHC level. Delivery of pharmaceutical services at this level are provided by the Pharmacy Technician.

Employers in the pharmacy sector will gain access to suitably qualified Pharmacy Technicians to produce high-quality work in accordance with the scope of practice for a Pharmacy Technician.

By creating career pathways in the sector, employees will be able to progress into pathways in the life sciences field. In addition, this qualification will create employment opportunities for the learners.

Learners exiting with the Pharmacy Technician qualification will be able to assist with:

- medicine supply management
- manufacture of medicines
- dispensing (supplying) of medicine to patients
- providing patient care
- managing pharmacy resources
- applying health and safety regulations and relevant medical and pharmaceutical law and ethics in the performance of their pharmaceutical duties, and
- housekeeping and administration relative to pharmaceutical services.

In light of the above, the South African Pharmacy Council hereby publishes for comment the Pharmacy Technician qualification in the QCTO format. Included in this publication is the following:

- (a) Occupational Qualification Document;
- (b) External Assessment Specifications Document; and
- (c) Curriculum Document: Pharmacy Technician

Interested parties are invited to submit, within 90 days of publication of this notice, substantiated comments on or representation regarding the proposed qualification. Comments must be addressed to the Registrar, the South African Pharmacy Council, Private Bag 40040, Arcadia, or fax (012)326-1496 or email BN@sapc.za.org.



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REGISTRAR

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