VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION
on the education, rights and obligations of pharmaceutical technicians and criteria for granting of licences, No. 1091/2012.

SECTION I
General provisions.
Article 1
Scope.

This Regulation applies to pharmaceutical technicians licensed by the Medical Director of Health under Article 2.

SECTION II
Licences.
Article 2
Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of pharmaceutical technician and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3
Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed education as a pharmaceutical technician from a recognised educational body which operates on the basis of the national curriculum guide for upper secondary education.

A licence may also be granted on the basis of education from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a pharmaceutical technician who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011.

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational body in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

An applicant for a licence as a pharmaceutical technician under Article 2 who is from a state outside the EEA and Switzerland, with which Iceland has not made an agreement on recognition of professional qualifications and competence, shall submit *inter alia* documentary evidence of nationality, content and duration of education, in addition to an examination certificate, a licence if the profession is an authorised profession in the applicant's state of origin, intended employment in Iceland, and any other documents and certificates deemed by the Medical Director of Health to be necessary for the issue of a licence.

Before an application for a licence is evaluated, as applicable a certified copy must be submitted of an application for residence and work permits, together with a signed contract of employment.

A requirement may be made for knowledge of the Icelandic language and Icelandic healthcare legislation, and other legislation and government directives deemed necessary to the work of a pharmaceutical technician, especially with regard to patients' safety and communication with patients.

Should it not have been demonstrated, in the judgement of the Medical Director of Health, and taking into account professional experience, that the applicant's qualification fulfils the criteria under the first paragraph, an applicant may be required to submit to a test of competence to demonstrate that he/she possesses the professional knowledge and competence required in a pharmaceutical technician.

The Medical Director of Health shall organise this test in consultation with a recognised educational body which operates on the basis of the national curriculum guide for upper secondary education.

A licence under the third paragraph is issued when the applicant commences work in Iceland.

Article 4

Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of a recognised educational body which operates on the basis of the national curriculum guide for upper secondary education, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the educational criteria for education under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III

Rights and obligations.

Article 5

Professional standards and responsibility.

A pharmaceutical technician shall show respect for the patient/client, and perform his/her tasks vigilantly and conscientiously and in accordance with the professional standards required of the profession at any time.

A pharmaceutical technician must be aware of his/her duties and respect ethical rules of the profession, maintain his/her knowledge and professional skill, and master innovations in his/her field of work.

A pharmaceutical technician shall be familiar with legislation and regulations applying to healthcare practitioners, healthcare services and other legislation and government directives as applicable.

A pharmaceutical technician is responsible for his/her work in accordance with the education he/she has received.

A pharmaceutical technician shall recognise his/her professional limitations, and seek assistance or refer the patient to another healthcare practitioner as necessary, for instance if he/she judges that he/she cannot provide the patient with appropriate healthcare service.

Article 6

Duty to inform and keeping of medical records.

The duty of a pharmaceutical technician to provide information to a patient is subject to the provisions of the Patients' Rights Act, No. 74/1997.

The duty of a pharmaceutical technician to provide information to the Medical Director of Health, *inter alia* with respect to monitoring and for the purpose of producing health reports, is subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health and Public Health Act, No. 41/2007.

A pharmaceutical technician shall, as appropriate, enter medical records in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Records Act, No. 55/2009, and regulations issued on the basis of the Act.

Article 7

Confidentiality.

A pharmaceutical technician shall maintain the utmost confidentiality regarding anything of which he/she becomes aware in his/her work about a patient's health, condition, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, and other personal information. This does not apply where other provisions are made by law, or where reasonable cause exists to breach confidentiality for reasons of urgent necessity.

A pharmaceutical technician can be released from the obligation of confidentiality by the consent of a patient, or guardian if applicable.

The duty of confidentiality under this Article does not apply to cases in which the pharmaceutical technician has a duty to report under other legal provisions. In such cases, the duty of the pharmaceutical technician is to notify the relevant authority.

A pharmaceutical technician's duty of confidentiality is also subject to the provisions of the Patients' Rights Act, the Medical Records Act and other legislation as applicable.

SECTION IV

Various provisions.

Article 8

Fees.

Fees for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 10 of the Treasury Supplementary Revenues Act, No. 88/1991.

Fees for all administration undertaken by the Medical Director of Health with regard to applications for licences, in addition to the fee under the first paragraph, and for tests of professional knowledge and competence, are subject to Regulations on fees for applications for healthcare practitioners' licences and specialist licences, No. 951/2012.

Article 9

General provisions.

The provisions of the Healthcare Practitioners Act, No. 34/2012, the Medical Director of Health and Public Health Act, No. 41/2007, the Medical Records Act, No. 55/2009, the Health Service Act, No. 40/2007, the Patients' Rights Act, No. 74/1997, and other legislation and government directives apply to pharmaceutical technicians as applicable.

Article 10

Entry into force.

This Regulation, issued on the basis of Articles 5, 30 and 31 of the Healthcare Practitioners Act, No. 34/2012, takes effect on 1 January 2013. From that time Regulation on the Professional Rights and Field of Work of Pharmaceutical Technicians, No. 199/1983, with subsequent amendments, is abrogated.

Ministry of Welfare, 11 December 2012.

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