

MINUTES
of the Second Meeting of the
Pharmacy Technicians Technical Review Committee
August 17, 2022
9:30 p.m. to Noon

Members participating

Douglas Vander Broek, DC
Kevin Low
Michael J. O’Hara, J.D., Ph.D.
Stephen Peters, BA, MA
Mary Sneckenberg
Marcy Wyrens, RRT
Theresa Parker, NHA

Members Absent

Staff persons participating

Matt Gelvin
Ron Briel
Jessie Enfield

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of the Agenda

Chairperson Vander Broek called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present. Dr. Vander Broek welcomed all attendees. The agenda and Open Meetings Law were posted, and the meeting was advertised online at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>. The committee members unanimously approved the agenda for the second meeting and the minutes of the first meeting.

II. Questions from Attendees and Ensuing Discussion

Mr. Peters asked the applicants to respond to the following questions:

- Was UNMC research data only about Covid-19 vaccinations or were vaccinations for other diseases included as well?
- If other diseases were included, which ones?
- How extensive is the training for Pharm Techs to provide vaccinations?
- Is this training all OJT or are there aspects of it that are more formal?
- How will this training be standardized?
- Are there age-related concerns about this proposal?

Marcia Mueting, PharmD, RP, and CEO of the Nebraska Pharmacists Association, responded by stating that the UNMC research team did not focus on any specific disease as they accumulated their data on vaccinations by Pharmacy personnel. Allison Dering-Anderson, PharmD, RP, commented that flu shot data appeared in reports from participating pharmacies as did Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Rubella, and Pneumonia, for example.

Dr. Dering-Anderson responded Mr. Peters’ questions about Pharm Tech training by stating that the proposal would follow guidelines provided by a National Training Program. Dr. Dering-Anderson continued her remarks by stating that there are no specific age-related criteria in the proposal pertinent to the administration of vaccines by Pharm Techs but that there is a rule applicable which limits vaccine administration by Pharm Techs to the Deltoid muscle mass, and that if a given patient—for whatever reason—cannot be administered a vaccination in this manner, the patient in question would be referred to a physician.

Dr. Vander Broek asked the applicants if there is a didactic component to this training. Dr. Dering-Anderson responded in the affirmative, adding that this is provided on-line. She continued by adding that there are examination components after the completion of each training segment, and that there is a two-hour, "live-training," practicum at the end of the training program wherein the trainee must successfully demonstrate what they've learned.

Marcy Wyrens asked whether or not all who teach in this training program are Pharmacists. Dr. Dering-Anderson responded that most teachers are Pharmacists but that she was not sure if all of them are Pharmacists, adding that anyone who is certifiable under the proposed legislation would be eligible to teach the course, and that could include nurses, for example.

Dr. Mueting commented on age-related concerns by stating that under Federal authority there is a three-year age limit pertinent to the administration of vaccinations to children by auxiliary personnel, but that this limitation does not apply to Pharmacists. A Pharmacist is trusted to be able to use his professional judgement as a licensed health care provider in these cases.

Dr. Vander Broek asked the applicants whether or not complaints about vaccination administration by auxiliary pharmacy personnel would be recorded. Dr. Dering Anderson responded that there would be no such recorded information under the terms of the proposal.

Mr. Peters asked the applicants what kinds of "targets" are used during the training course, and whether such things as chicken breasts are used for this purpose. Dr. Dering-Anderson responded by stating that only real humans or mannequins of some kind would suffice to satisfy the training standards.

Amy Reynoldson, Executive Vice President, NMA, commented about responses she received from several physicians about the applicants' proposal, as regarding the pros versus cons of this proposal as they see it. Each of them indicated that the proposal would free-up the Pharmacist to do the things that only Pharmacists can do and thereby speed-up the delivery of Pharmacy services. Each of them expressed concerns about patients who were either very young or very elderly but that this was not so great a concern as to necessitate opposition to the proposal. Each indicated that cooperation between Pharmacists and Physicians vis-à-vis collaborative agreements would be able to make the proposal work for the benefit of consumers.

Dr. Vander Broek asked the applicants if these collaborative agreements would be implemented at the local level or at the corporate level in the health care system. Dr. Dering-Anderson responded by stating that both local and corporate entities would be involved in the administration of this proposal, and that as an example both the Board of Medicine and the Board of Pharmacy would need to be notified about the formation of any-and-all collaborative agreements vis-à-vis this particular service.

Mr. Peters asked the applicants if there could ever be a situation wherein a Pharm Tech would be administering vaccinations in a nursing home. Dr. Dering Anderson responded that this could happen but that given the complexity of this situation it would be a very rare occurrence.

Marcy Wyrens asked the applicants who would be recording or administering the progress of this program. Amy Reynoldson responded that the Boards of Pharmacy and Medicine and Surgery would play a major role in overseeing this program. Dr. Dering-Anderson commented that part of the oversight of this program would be ensuring that each auxiliary participant maintains their skills via updates and continuing education pursuant to getting and maintaining their certification which they must have to provide the services in question.

Lina Bostwick, NNA, commented that she is in favor of the proposal even though there can be no doubt that the training program for Pharm Techs is far less rigorous than the training program for Medication Aides, for example, adding that she sees a need for the applicant group to provide greater assurance of competency vis-à-vis the Pharmacy auxiliary personnel in question. Ms. Bostwick went on to state that record keeping is another area of concern with this proposal and that without good record keeping it's going to be hard to maintain effective oversight of this program.

Dr. Dering-Anderson responded that Med Aides are always an option for the delivery of the services in question and that nothing in the proposal would in any way impede this option for the delivery of these services.

Dr. O'Hara asked the applicants what the various tests used to measure competency would cost. Dr. Dering-Anderson responded that these costs would range between eighty dollars and one-hundred and twenty-five dollars depending on what organization is administering the tests.

Mr. Peters asked the applicants how many injuries result from the administration of vaccinations done in pharmacies. Dr. Dering-Anderson responded that under three hundreds of one percent of vaccinations has resulted in some kind of injury.

III. Public Comments

There were no additional public comments at this time.

IV. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no further business, the committee members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

