

Preface

Since the fourth edition of this book was published in 2013, the professional landscape has changed dramatically for pharmacy technicians. More opportunities than ever exist for technicians to obtain advanced training and explore different practice roles. Technicians are venturing into new territories, including taking medication histories, coordinating billing and reimbursement, increasing responsibility in sterile compounding, and others.

In March 2019, the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) launched the first of five certificate programs aimed at providing technicians with the formal training and recognition they need to demonstrate their expertise in product verification, medication histories, hazardous drug management, controlled substances, and third-party billing. For the first time, PTCB-certified pharmacy technicians who complete four of these certificate programs are eligible to earn the Advanced Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT-Adv) credential. These certificate programs and advanced credentialing opportunities join PTCB's Compounded Sterile Product Technician certification exam that launched in 2017.

During this time, we have also witnessed increasing demand for certified pharmacy technicians, with approximately 700,000 certified pharmacy technician (CPhT) certifications granted by PTCB to date, and at least 21 states now require certification for technicians. Avenues are expanding for certification, with increasing availability and uptake of the Exam for Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT), offered by the National Healthcareer Association (NHA). Although this exam has been available for some time, it is becoming more widely recognized by states as a pathway to achieve CPhT certification.

These professional changes heavily influenced this revision of the *Pharmacy Technician Certification Quick-Study Guide*. In addition to a close alignment of the chapters with current PTCB and ExCPT certification exams, this edition contains content throughout the text on leadership and professional development opportunities for pharmacy technicians, including an added chapter with this focus.

With the increasing opportunities and more stringent education and practice requirements for technician certification, credentialing, and professional development, we have moved beyond the era in which a single textbook can meet all of a technician's educational needs. We view this progress as a landmark achievement for pharmacy technicians. We hope this revised edition of the *Pharmacy Technician Certification Quick-Study Guide* provides a strong starting point and will help to launch many enterprising pharmacy technicians into the professional stratosphere.

I'd like to thank John Fedor and Kathy Anderson at APhA for their assistance in making this revision a reality. I offer special thanks to Susan Moss Marks, who was a coauthor with William A. Hopkins Jr. on the first three editions of this book and played a pivotal role in making it a valuable tool for pharmacy technicians.

Kristin Wiisanen
February 2020