

# Why technicians should register with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

The following is a statement produced jointly by the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK and the Hospital Pharmacists Group of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in support of the voluntary registration of pharmacy technicians

**R**egulation of health care professionals encapsulates all of the systems that combine to assure the competence of health care professionals. These include education, registration, training, continuing professional development and revalidation, as well as disciplinary matters.

Most of the current direction on regulation is found in the Kennedy Report ([www.bristol-inquiry.org.uk](http://www.bristol-inquiry.org.uk)), which identifies that for each professional group there should be one body charged with overseeing all aspects relating to the regulation of professional life, and that the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence should be charged with overall co-ordination of these various bodies.

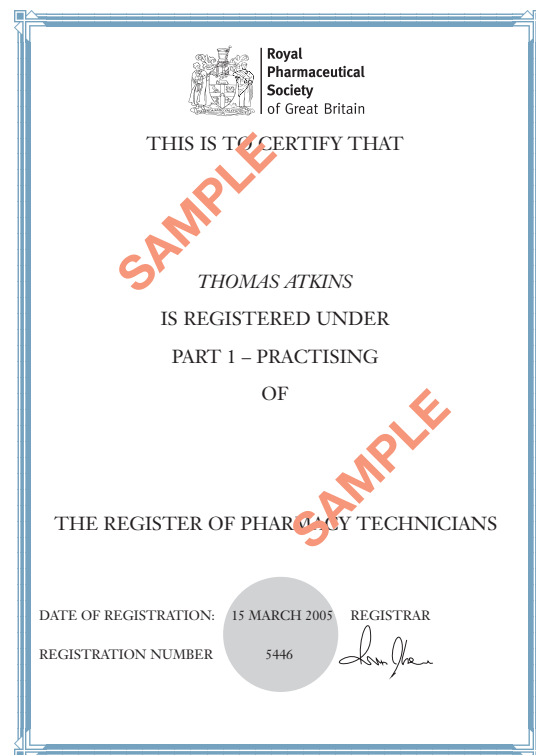
The Royal Pharmaceutical Society states that the regulatory framework for pharmacy technicians will mean that registered pharmacy technicians will need to comply with

their code of ethics, undertake CPD in order to stay on the Register, and can use the protected title of "Registered Pharmacy Technician (RegPharmTech)". They will be subject to fitness-to-practise procedures in the same way as pharmacists. Therefore, patients, the public, individual pharmacy technicians and employers all benefit.

## Why register?

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK and the Society's Hospital Pharmacists Group encourage pharmacy technicians to register with the Society at the earliest opportunity (see [www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/benefits.htm](http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/benefits.htm)). The reasons the support technicians registration are:

- Registration supports clinical governance, by setting standards of practice and conduct
- Registration supports CPD, and subsequently raises standards of practice
- Registration will improve employment opportunities, particularly where technicians are undertaking extended roles
- Registration protects the public, employers and other technicians from "rogue" practitioners
- Only registered technicians will be able to use the title "pharmacy technician" once registration becomes a statutory requirement
- Only registered technicians can vote for the technician representatives on the Council of Society



Pharmacy technicians are advised to access and familiarise themselves with the registration process and paperwork as soon as practicable. This process may take a while to complete.

Following a precedent set by other newly regulated professions, it is possible that the date of statutory registration could directly follow the Section 60 Order expected sometime during 2005, with the grandparent period operating for two years after the mandatory date. This provides another reason for pharmacy technicians to start their application early.

## About the organisations

**The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists** is a section of the Amicus Union. Full members are pharmacists employed by a UK health authority, health board, NHS trust, primary care trust, or similar institution, or preregistration pharmacy graduates undergoing a period of practical training in accordance with the regulations of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland at a hospital, health centre, or similar institution.

**The Royal Pharmaceutical Society** is the regulatory and representative professional body for pharmacists in Great Britain. Pharmacists are members of the Society. Pharmacy technicians will become "registrants" of the Society, which will act as their regulatory body.

The Society's Hospital Pharmacists Group is open to all pharmacists working in the NHS, private or armed forces hospitals and employed by, or acting as consultants to, health authorities, health boards or health trusts. Its core activities include providing members with information about service developments and examples of good practice, and to advising the Society's Council on aspects of hospital pharmacy and developments in health care affecting hospital pharmacists.

**The Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK** is the professional representative body for pharmacy technicians throughout the UK.

## Society groups

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has established special interest groups for community pharmacists, for veterinary pharmacists, for industrial, regulatory and technical pharmacists, for hospital pharmacists and for pharmacy academic staff. The groups hold meetings to consider topics of interest within their own fields of practice and they provide a source of advice to the Society's Council on specialist matters. Details of the groups can be obtained from the Society. Contacts are as follows:

- Community Pharmacists Group and Industrial Pharmacists Group, Angela Canning, practice division (tel 020 7572 2412)
- Hospital Pharmacists Group and Veterinary Pharmacists Group, Lorraine Fearon, practice division (tel 020 7572 2409)
- Academic Pharmacy Group, Zoe Whittington, research and development division (tel 020 7572 2276).