



PITO Update

Calculations Test for Pharmacy Technicians completing the National Certificate in Pharmacy

The practice test is now available from the members' area of our website www.pito.org.nz. If you have difficulty accessing this you should contact us immediately.

Supervising Pharmacists for Pharmacy Technicians starting the National Certificate in Pharmacy

There has been some confusion amongst pharmacists who have a pharmacy technician undertaking version 7 of the National Certificate in Pharmacy.

All supervising pharmacists under the new requirements need to have completed training to be able to verify their technicians work. The Open Polytechnic provide this training free of charge. Unless you have previously completed the training to supervise an intern or have previously completed unit standard 18203 (Verify evidence of assessment of a candidate) you need to undertake this training with the Open Polytechnic. You must complete the pharmacists section of the yellow enrolment form that your technician trainee has to complete. The Open Polytechnic will then contact you with further information.

Pharmacy Assistants

Pharmacy Assistants are often the first person a customer (patient) will talk to when they walk into a pharmacy, yet they are often overlooked when it comes to training and qualifications.

Anecdotal evidence shows that employers who invest in training of their staff generally retain their staff for longer, have a more efficient workforce, and in some instances raise their profitability through a combination of having to spend less money on recruitment; and in some cases increasing their clientele due to the professionalism and knowledge of their staff.

The Pharmacy Industry Training Organisation (PITO) knows the value of pharmacy assistants in the pharmacy; we offer the opportunity to all pharmacy assistants with a minimum of two years experience the chance to become formally recognised as a pharmacy health professional through a National Qualification.

PITO run an 18 month assessment only programme for eligible pharmacy assistants resulting in the pharmacy assistant gaining a Nationally recognised qualification. Pharmacy assistants who gain the qualification are generally more able to assist their customers or know when to refer them, get more job satisfaction and are increasingly more sought after by employers.

The qualification includes pharmacy specific units covering minor ailments, diet and nutrition, wound management, eye care, managing infections; as well as units dealing with customer service, customer and colleague communication, stock management, workplace health and safety, beauty care and cosmetics.

If you are a pharmacy assistant or a pharmacy owner with an assistant who meets the criteria and would like more information about an assessment only programme to gain the National Certificate in Pharmacy Level 3 please contact Tina at PITO (04) 381 8352 or email tina@pito.org.nz or check out our Website www.pito.org.nz.

PITO Welcomes Feedback

If you have completed a PITO programme and wish to make comment about your experience with the assessors, PITO staff, the assessments or the process itself please email us info@pito.org.nz. All comments are welcome as they help us to continuously do better.

