



The Pharmacy ITO will be closed for Christmas from 12 noon 24th December 2009 and will reopen for business Monday 11th January 2010. We wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to working with you in 2010.

PITO trainees should not submit assessments for marking after 18 December 2009 until we re-open in January 2010. During the holiday season assessment marking may be delayed due to assessors being on leave.

New Qualifications Update

During 2009, PITO have been very busy developing the assessments for the new qualifications, The National Certificate in Pharmacy Technician and The National Certificate in Pharmacy Assistant. The majority of the assessments have been written and people are enrolled in both qualifications. In 2010 PITO will complete the following electives units 23654, 23655, 23679, 23680 & 23683 for the Pharmacy Technician, Hospital strand.

We have now selected the electives for pharmacy assistants completing the National Certificate Level 3 through the Pharmacy Industry Training Organisation. The assessments for these will be written over the next few months. Pharmacy assistants need to select electives totaling a minimum of 10 credits in addition to the compulsory aspect of the qualification.

Important Information for Pharmacists

Pharmacists training Pharmacy technicians and assistants who are enrolled in the new versions of the National Certificates are now required to verify that their technicians and assistants have successfully completed each of the assignments they are set and have met all the requirements not only of the assignment, but also the pharmacy's own standard operating procedures and practices.

Pharmacists qualify as verifiers if they have been a Preceptor for a Pharmacy Intern and hold unit standard 4098 (Use standards to assess candidate performance), or have acted as a verifier pharmacist for a PITO trainee and hold unit standard 18203 (Verify evidence for assessment for candidate).

If you are the nominated verifier pharmacist for a technician or assistant in training and do not have either 4098 or 18203, you will need to complete unit standard 18203 through the Open Polytechnic.

They provide this at no cost and it is a straight-forward exercise carried out while your technician completes their initial assignments.

When your technician or assistant enrolls in a new module of the qualification with the Open Polytechnic; they will be sent a pack of materials to complete this module. Included in this pack is information for the verifier pharmacist. This information will advise the pharmacist if there is any verification work required for that particular module or not. It is important therefore that pharmacists ask their trainee for this information whenever they receive their new course materials.

Remember you have agreed to train your staff member and this means assisting them to complete the course requirements as well as the actual on-the-job training.

NZHPA Technician Conference

Over 60 pharmacy technicians attended the annual NZHPA technician conference held at Christchurch Hospital 7th November. It was the first time this conference had been held in the South Island for a long time. Topics included Medicines Reconciliation, Breast Cancer, a Neonatal case study, Drug addiction and Drug Interactions.

The turnout was fantastic with registrants coming from Whangarei to Invercargill and all places in between including nearly 20 local community

technicians. It was especially pleasing to find that for many this was their first conference/study day.

Feedback was extremely positive with technicians finding it was an informative and enjoyable time and a great opportunity to meet others and learn what they do.

The next NZHPA technician conference is to be held in Hastings in May 2010. Watch this space.

