

### TCT Successful in Institutional Settings

Technicians have been performing the technical tasks of prescription dispensing in institutional settings for decades. This allows pharmacists more time to perform in-depth cognitive and clinical services.<sup>3</sup> Institutional programs range from technicians verifying the replenishment of unit dose carts and preparing, packaging and labeling medications in the absence of an on-site pharmacist.<sup>5</sup>

### TCT Pilots Underway in Community Pharmacy

Currently, NACDS is conducting a pilot in 14 community pharmacies to assess how clinical services can be expanded when TCT is implemented. Preliminary results have been consistent with published safety outcomes and time savings.<sup>8</sup>



**“The number of clinical services offered in a community pharmacy can double with the implementation of Tech-check-Tech”**

*– New Pharmacy Practice Model Pilot<sup>8</sup>*

<b>Ongoing advancements in technician training</b>	National certification and ASHP-accredited training programs are setting high standards for technician performance.
<b>Technicians are shown to be as accurate as pharmacists at product verification</b>	Published studies indicate that technicians are as accurate as pharmacists when performing product verification tasks. <sup>2,3</sup> TCT programs have continuous quality assurance programs to ensure technicians maintain the required level of accuracy. <sup>2,5,9</sup>
<b>Tech-check-Tech creates capacity for pharmacists to provide expanded clinical services</b>	One time study indicated approximately 1300 hours would be available to be reallocated to clinical services annually. <sup>1</sup> Initial results of the NACDS pilot have shown that the number of clinical services offered in a community pharmacy can double with the implementation of TCT. <sup>8</sup>
<b>Pharmacists are ultimately responsible for all activities in the pharmacy</b>	States that currently allow TCT have a variety of requirements around licensure, registration and certification for pharmacy technicians. <sup>2,4</sup> Implementing regulation to allow TCT may call for further examination of these requirements. Licensure may add an extra level of accountability for a technician serving in this role.

Facility	Practice Situation	Sample Size	Accuracy Rate <sup>b</sup>		Error Detection Rate <sup>c</sup>		p <sup>a</sup>
			Tech	RPh	Tech	RPh	
Tertiary care institution	Checking unit dose envelopes	15,252	99.9	99.8	97.0	94.3	<0.05
Specialty pharmacy	Checking prefilled syringes	10,608	99.83	99.86	... <sup>d</sup>	...	NS
Children's hospital	Checking unit dose cart fills	8,645	98.95 <sup>e</sup>	...	100	100	...

<sup>a</sup> NS=not significant    <sup>b</sup> Percentage of orders checked that were free from error    <sup>c</sup> Percentage of errors in sample that were detected by the checker  
<sup>d</sup> Not reported    <sup>e</sup> Calculated by authors