



KSHP Mission

To assist KSHP members in the provision of pharmaceutical care in organized health care settings throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

KSHP Advocacy Alert: KY Board of Pharmacy Technician Regulation Amendment Proposal



Overview:

KSHP presented a proposal to the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy to modify the supervision requirements for pharmacy technicians. The Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPhA) and Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) were noted as supporters.

The core proposal distinguishes between:

- **Non-certified Registered Technicians** – currently required to interact with automated dispensing cabinets (ADCs) under **direct supervision** with the exception in hospice facilities, they can be under generalized supervision
- **Certified Technicians** – already allowed to interact with automated dispensing machines under **general supervision**

Key Points Discussed:

1. **Rationale for Regulation Change Proposal**
 - Need to address **labor shortages** in health-system pharmacies

- Many experienced technicians are *not certified* – certification does not currently train for technology like barcoding
- Non-certified registered techs managing ADCs removes the certification barrier to current workforce challenges; systems already invest heavily in training/competency evaluation of these activities

2. Patient Safety and Diversion Concerns Brought up by the Board of Pharmacy

A major portion of the discussion centered on **medication safety** and preventing **diversion**:

- Board members asked whether expanding non-certified tech duties could create diversion risks
- KSHP emphasized:
 - Health-system policies and procedures already include strict controls
 - Diversion is *not* typically attributed to technicians
 - In hospice or hospital settings, access to narcotic medications already exists and can be handled by non-certified registered technicians with no related spike in diversion incidents
- Katie McKinney, KSHP Public Policy Committee Chair, highlighted that **AI-enable checks and balances** strengthen diversion monitoring

3. Barcoding and Technology Use

- Board pushed for clarity around the phrase “**use of barcode technology**” to define minimum standards
- The pharmacy technician certification exam does *not* include formal barcoding, while health systems already provide in-house instruction

4. Workforce Data Clarification

- Initial statement: half of Kentucky’s techs are non-certified
- Corrected: **one-third** of techs are non-certified
- Tech roles and rotations vary across health systems

5. Health-System Autonomy

- Ben Mudd, KPhA Executive Director, reminded the Board that **health-system pharmacists are the experts** and should retain discretion to resolve discrepancies within their own institutional controls
- Amanda Castle, KSHP Public Policy Committee Member, reiterated that each system already has its own training, security, and audit processes

ASHP Call for House of Delegates Nominations



It is the time of year for individuals interested in representing Kentucky in the ASHP House of Delegates to submit nominations. Please see the email from KSHP President Dr. Gavin Howington from 11/25/25 to complete your nomination (self-nominations are encouraged). Nominations are due Friday, December 12th and voting will begin on December 19th. Please

ensure you check your “junk” or “spam” email folders if you are unable to find the email from Dr. Howington. Additionally, ensure you check the email associated with your ASHP account.

Kentucky Board of Pharmacy – Continuing Education Advisory Committee Members Needed

The Kentucky Board of Pharmacy is accepting applications for the newly established Continuing Education Advisory Committee. All registered pharmacists in the state of Kentucky should have received an email from the Board with specific instructions on how to apply but we encourage any health-system pharmacist who is interested to submit their application. Please click [HERE](#) to view the application plus required materials. The deadline to apply is January 9, 2026. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy at pharmacy.board@ky.gov.



KENTUCKY BOARD OF PHARMACY

Have a suggestion for the Bluegrass Buzz?

Email communications@kshp.org with your ideas or topics.



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