



**South Dakota
Board of Pharmacy**

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WHAT: Board Policy Statement # 22-01-03

WHY: GUIDELINES AND PROCESS TO UTILIZE A 4:1 TECHNICIAN TO PHARMACIST RATIO IN RETAIL PHARMACY

INTRODUCTION

The practice of pharmacy has been granted new and expanded duties involving the current COVID-19 pandemic, including testing, immunizations, and providing other countermeasures in the fight against COVID-19. The federal government has implemented provisions to increase the accessibility of testing, immunizations, and COVID-19 countermeasures via the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness ([PREP](#)) Act. The PREP Act provides pharmacists, interns, and technicians liability protections and expands their scope of practice to help ensure increased public access to testing, immunizations, and COVID-19 countermeasures. The limited liability protections pertain to the items specifically included within the PREP Act and does not include any other liability protection. With these expanded roles for pharmacists, technicians, and interns, the Board understands that more staff may be necessary to accomplish these additional tasks while completing the normal day to day workload in retail pharmacies. The board has provided this guidance to outline criteria to be followed to obtain a variance to ARSD 20:51:29:19 to allow for a 4:1 technician ratio. This variance shall be allowed once the board office has reviewed the request and is satisfied the following criteria are met. This policy statement shall remain in effect until revoked by the board or the PREP Act COVID provisions expire, whichever is first.

CRITERIA

The Request for 4:1 Technician to Pharmacist Ratio shall include the following:

1. Proof that at least one technician is certified while working during anytime there is an increased ratio.
2. Provide a current list of all technicians currently working at the pharmacy.
3. The type(s) of COVID-19 countermeasures the pharmacy is providing, and the staff involved (including technicians).
4. Provide Policy and Procedure document regarding Medication Error Monitoring program for the pharmacy which explains how medication errors are tracked to prevent future similar errors and staff are educated on these errors.
5. Central Pharmacies that supervise telepharmacies may not request an increased ratio.

Once the request has been submitted, the board office staff will review. If approved, a letter of approval will be issued. This should be maintained in the pharmacy and available for review during inspections. If the pharmacy experiences increased patient safety issues, the board office may revoke the increased technician ratio variance at any time.

BOARD APPROVAL/ADOPTION: April 7, 2022