

My name is Kelly Kline. *I was recently named Pharmacy Technician of the Year (2023) by Maryland Pharmacists Association!*

I am a Certified Pharmacy Technician, Advanced (CPhT.-Adv.) and buyer at the Atlantic General Hospital inpatient pharmacy. My opinions do not necessarily represent those of my employer.

I have been a CPhT for 20 years. While I began my career in the retail pharmacy arena, (and have worked retail PRN a few years ago), I've spent the majority of my career in the community hospital setting. I earned my Advanced status through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) in the fall of 2022. I have the following PTCB advanced certifications: Medication History, Vaccine Administration, Hazardous Medication Management, Regulatory Compliance, and Supply Chain and Inventory Management. Through the National Pharmacy Technician Association, I've earned the Technician Product Verification certificate and through Board of Pharmacy Technician Specialties, I've earned Controlled Substance Diversion Prevention certificate.

Over the last couple decades, I have witness first-hand the enhancement of healthcare, overall, due to the direct and indirect actions of pharmacy technicians.

I am highly in favor of HB 0693:

“Altering the membership of the State Board of Pharmacy to include a registered pharmacy technician; authorizing a licensed pharmacist, under certain circumstances, to delegate pharmacy acts to be performed at a remote location to a registered pharmacy technician and a registered pharmacy intern; repealing the prohibition on a registered pharmacy technician administering influenza vaccines; etc.”

Specifically, I HUGELY support adding a registered pharmacy technician to the state board of pharmacy membership. CPhT's, as a whole, are highly-trained, highly intelligent people who really build the bridge and fill in the gaps between the pharmacists and the patients. The Covid crisis really propelled us to a level the likes of which we hadn't seen before, but we rose to the challenge with grace and gusto! It became abundantly clear CPhT's are the backbone of the pharmacy and there's no turning back now.

By putting a CPhT. on the Board of Pharmacy you allow a vital and eclectic wave of opinions, knowledge and expertise to fortify and elevate discussions and decision-making like never before. We really are the 'missing' piece of the puzzle; a border piece, providing the framework for all things pharmacy.

The opportunities for advanced certifications are ever-growing, and require an extraordinary level of commitment, maturity and dedication. By earning these credentials, we become an absolutely necessary component clinically supporting pharmacists and other healthcare professionals, alike. Our advancing presence allows for an additional layer of patient safety and satisfaction.

Please consider elevating the Maryland Board of Pharmacy by creating a technician seat, as we are not only the face of pharmacy, but the heart soul.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Kline