

This is a summary of the Pharmacy Technician Learning Community Information Session from December 5, 2024.

Introduction

- **Facilitators:**
 - Raquel Biem, Education Development Specialist at USask CPE.
 - Louisa Chan, Pharmacist and Program Consultant at USask CPE; former pharmacy technician and lab instructor.
- **Purpose:**
 - Launch an online learning community for pharmacy technicians across Canada.

Land Acknowledgement

- Recognizing connection to the land.
- Facilitators join from Treaty 4 (Swift Current, Saskatchewan) and Treaty 6 (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan).

Learning Community Overview

- **Scope:**
 - Nationwide participation, not province-specific.
 - Open to all pharmacy technicians, regardless of location or licensing status.
- **Format:**
 - Structured yet flexible to adapt to participant needs.
 - Three 1.5-hour online meetings (January to June) with discussions, breakout rooms, and interactive elements.
 - Participants will influence the development of continuing education (CE) opportunities.
 - Meetings may lead to smaller, specialized groups based on interest or context (e.g., hospital vs. community pharmacy).

Goals of the Learning Community

- Identify barriers pharmacy technicians face in applying best practices.
- Brainstorm solutions and strategies to address these barriers.
- Collaborate to outline CE opportunities aligned with technicians' needs.
- Build a professional network among pharmacy technicians.

Alignment with USask CPE's Mission

- Strategic priority: Expand CE opportunities for pharmacy technicians.
- Address the gap in CE for technicians compared to pharmacists.
- Leverage technicians' insights to create relevant, impactful programs.

Benefits of Participation

- **For Participants:**
 - Gain CE units (pending provincial regulatory body approval).
 - Collaborate with peers and build a professional network.
 - Directly shape CE offerings.
- **For USask CPE:**
 - Gain insights into technicians' needs, challenges, and experiences.
 - Identify potential contributors for future CE course development.

Pathways Beyond the Learning Community

- Participants may transition to **contributors**:
 - Roles include subject matter experts, reviewers, or co-facilitators.
 - Contributions will be compensated (e.g., for course development, interviews, case studies).
- Example: A technician experienced in sterile preparation could develop or review related CE content.

Tentative Structure of Meetings

- **Session 1:** Identify barriers and brainstorm solutions.
- **Session 2:** Share priorities, discuss impactful topics, and refine strategies.
- **Session 3:** Develop CE opportunity outlines with outcomes, content, and key collaborators.

Next Steps

- Email invitations and surveys will be sent to:
 - Confirm interest.
 - Identify availability and specific areas of interest.
- Meetings will begin soon after scheduling is finalized.

Open Q&A

- **Is the purpose of this community to identify potential topics for learning courses?**
 - The learning community will identify potential topics for learning courses, but we want to go deeper than that. Our goals include identifying best practices, uncovering barriers that pharmacy technicians face in applying these practices, and collaboratively developing strategies and continuing education to overcome identified barriers. By the end of the learning community, we aim to be well-prepared to create continuing education that meets the needs and interests of pharmacy technicians. Additionally, we hope some of you will feel inspired to collaborate with us in developing these learning opportunities.
- **Can I be part of the community if I am not working in Saskatchewan?**
 - The learning community is not Saskatchewan specific, nor does it rely on membership in an organization. We encourage pharmacy technicians from across Canada to participate.
- **Do you have an interest in collaborating with existing platforms?**
 - If you are interested in discussing a collaboration, please feel free to reach out to us for further conversation.
- **How can I sign up?**
 - To sign up, USask CPE will send out an email with more information.

Participant Comments

- Participants indicate a need for this initiative and enthusiasm for what is to come

Closing Remarks

- Facilitators express excitement and gratitude for participation.
- Participants encouraged to respond to follow-up emails to join the learning community.