



### **Pharmacy Technician Rule Passes NC Board of Pharmacy**

Effective June 2011, the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy has adopted Board Rule 21 NCAC 46.1418, which allows certain specially- trained pharmacy technicians, termed validating technicians, to check work done by other technicians in hospitals. Validating technicians are required to hold an associate's degree in pharmacy technology, national certification, and North Carolina state registration. They are also required to complete their specific on-site training programs as mandated by their employers.

The process of validation in pharmacy is intended to ensure the final product assembled by the technician accurately corresponds to its medication label or delivery sheet. It involves performing a double check of the drug, strength, dosage, amount, expiration date, and integrity of packaging. Previously, this function was only legally performed by a pharmacist.

The Validating Technician Rule is intended to provide more time for pharmacists to perform duties which require their professional judgment and educational background. However, pharmacists must still verify the accuracy of all intravenous medication preparations.

Relatively few pharmacy technicians in North Carolina hold associate degrees in pharmacy technology, because there are few programs in the state which offer the degree. The first and only college in the Charlotte metropolitan area to offer the Associate of Science in Pharmacy Technology is Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, which will begin its first cohort this fall. There are still a few seats available in the program, and the College is accepting applications for fall enrollment.

Additional information on the program and the application for admission are available at [www.cabarruscollege.edu](http://www.cabarruscollege.edu). If you have questions about the Pharmacy Technology program at Cabarrus College call 704-403-1555 to speak with an admissions counselor.