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**NYSCHP Applauds Passage of Pharmacy Technician Licensure/Certification Law**

ALBANY NY- The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP) applauds the NYS Legislature and Governor Cuomo on the signing into law of S6517/A8319, which defines the practice of registered pharmacy technicians in hospitals/health-systems. NYSCHP has been fighting for a law like this for years.

This law will:

- Improve patient safety by creating state-wide competency and training standards for pharmacy technicians in hospitals/health-systems
- Safeguard thousands of hospital/health-system pharmacy technician jobs
- Ensure hospital/health-system pharmacists' delivery of patient care can be maintained
- Eliminate the ambiguity of decades-old regulatory framework
- Create a public accountability mechanism for hospital/health-system pharmacy technicians

Across the country, pharmacy technicians assist the pharmacist in preparing medications by performing technical functions, such as measuring, weighing, mixing and compounding medications – with the medications checked by a pharmacist before being given to a patient. In most states, these duties and the training required to perform them are spelled out in statute. New York State was one of only a few states where this was not the case and pharmacy technicians have been working as “unlicensed persons”.

While receiving inquiries from NYSCHP, the State Education Department (SED) became concerned about this lack of scope of practice and clarified that “unlicensed persons” in New York may not “measure, weigh, compound or mix ingredients”. This caused a crisis in hospitals/health-systems throughout New York as some facilities removed pharmacy

technicians from these technical roles and replaced them with pharmacists, causing financial burden and interrupting patient care services those pharmacists were providing.

NYSCHP collaborated with other interested organizations, such as Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), 1199SEIU, Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYs), the Governor's office, the SED, and the NYS legislature, on crafting and optimizing legislative language to clarify and codify pharmacy technician duties in hospitals/health-systems. NYSCHP provided key insight to the writing of the law, recommending several revisions which made it into the final version. NYSCHP thanks the sponsors, Assemblymember Romeo and Chair of Senate Higher Education Committee Senator Stavisky, for their hard work and dedication. NYSCHP also thanks Assembly Higher Education Chair Deborah Glick for her leadership on this important issue.

The law will require pharmacy technicians in hospitals/health-systems to obtain nationally-accredited pharmacy technician certification in order to perform certain technical functions such as measuring, weighing, mixing and compounding medications in hospitals/health-systems. These pharmacy technicians will need to register with SED. Further, while unlicensed persons who are not registered with SED may still perform some basic functions, such as labeling and counting, they may not assist in compounding. Finally, the definitions and scope of the registered pharmacy technician will only apply to hospitals/health-system and not to community pharmacy technicians.

NYSCHP looks forward to collaborating with interested organizations, SED and the public as the regulations are written that will shape the practice of pharmacy technicians in hospitals/health-systems in New York State.

Founded in 1958, the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists is a professional organization of over 2000 pharmacists, pharmacy technical personnel, students, industry personnel and other interested in the advancement of pharmacy as an essential component of health care and medication error reduction. NYSCHP is dedicated to promoting good health through public education, fostering safe and rational drug use; encouraging and assisting in the development of quality, comprehensive pharmaceutical services and serving as a catalyst for practice innovation that enables members to better serve the public interest and the profession.