

# Standardized Pharmacy Technician Education and Training

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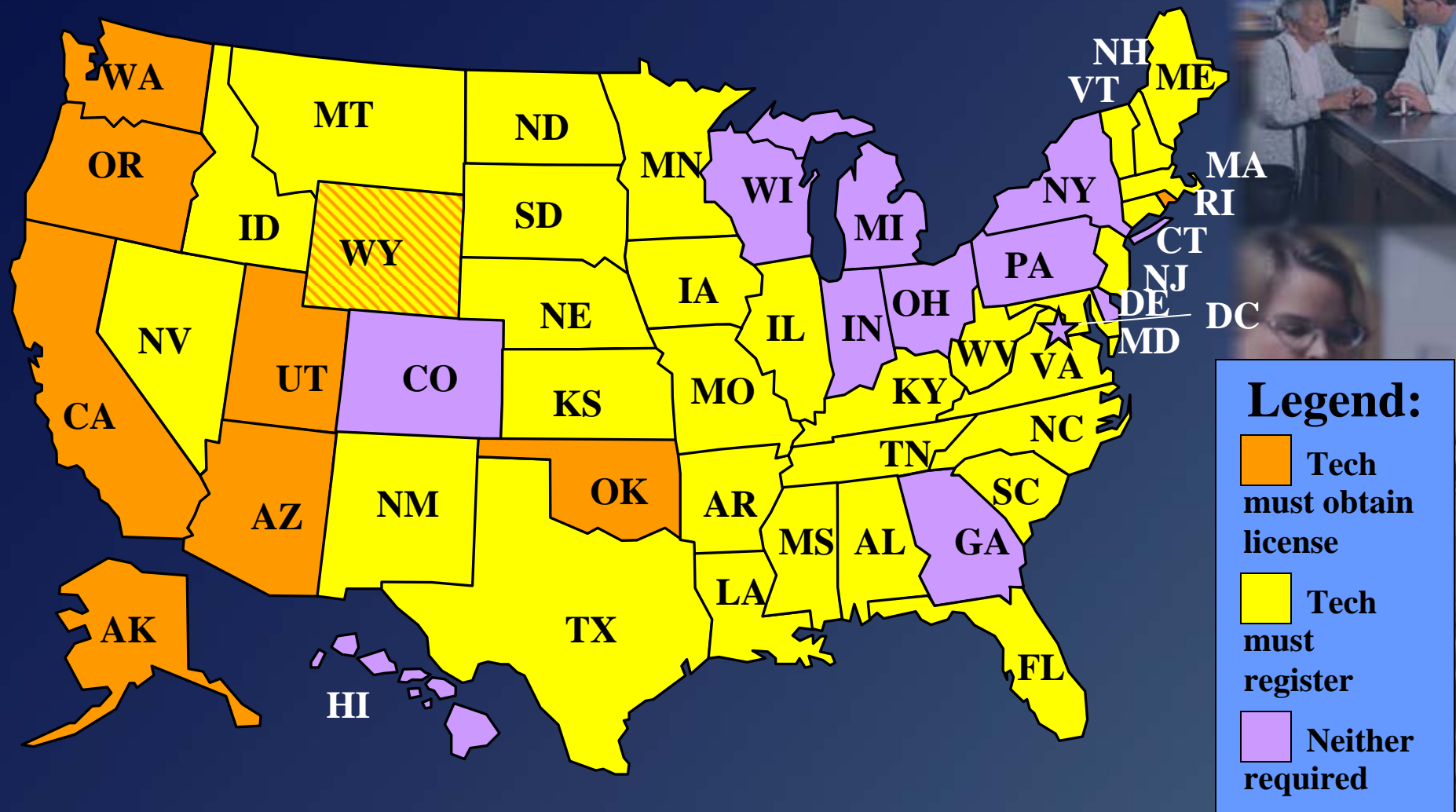
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# Overview of how technicians are currently regulated throughout the United States

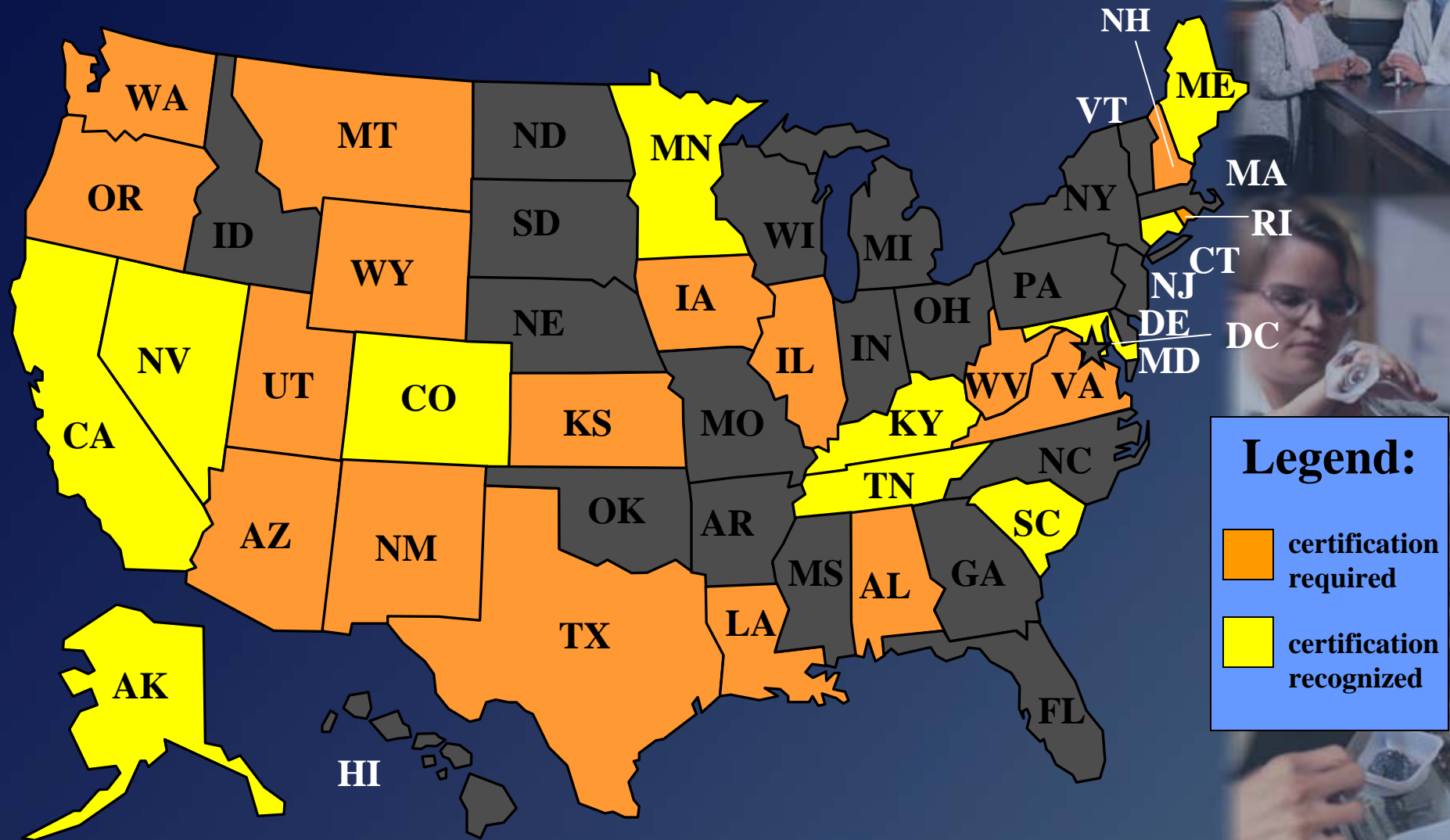


# Technician Registration/Licensure



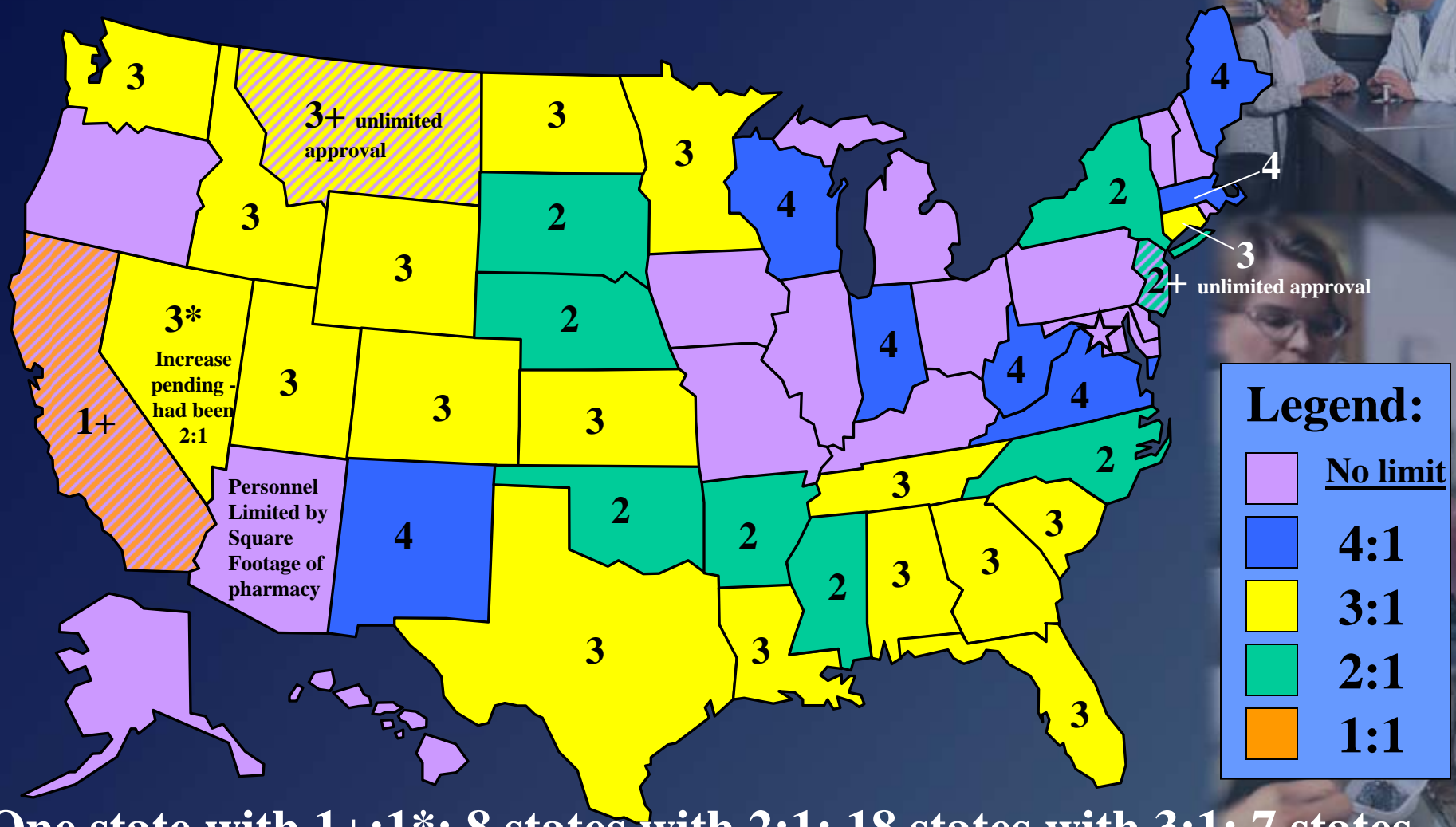
WY - tech-in-training to register/ techs need license

# Technician Certification





# Technician : Pharmacist Ratio



One state with 1+:1\*; 8 states with 2:1; 18 states with 3:1; 7 states with 4:1; 17 states/DC with no ratio/unlimited

# Chain Pharmacy's Position on National Standards for Pharmacy Training Programs



# Task Force Recommendations

## Chain Pharmacy Supports:

- ✓ Clarify the Terms Used for Pharmacy Technicians
- ✓ States License or Register Pharmacy Technicians
- ✓ Certification from Nationally Recognized Competency Assessment Examination
- ✓ Report Technician Disciplinary Information and Expand NABP Licensure Transfer



# Technician Training Programs

- Chain pharmacy supports the creation of national / uniform standards for pharmacy technician training programs
- Technicians must be properly trained to accurately and effectively perform their duties in their particular practice setting



# Technician Training Programs

- Standards should establish general training criteria, but be designed with flexibility with respect to their application in various pharmacy practice settings
- Standards should allow for employer-based training programs
- Standards must be flexible to consider varying state laws and regulations



# Technician Training Programs

- Employer-based training programs...
  - Ensure that pharmacies are staffed with pharmacy technicians who are appropriately trained to work in that particular pharmacy by providing hands-on training and interaction with pharmacists
  - Allow each pharmacy to train pharmacy technicians to perform the duties needed to serve the patients in their individual practice setting by teaching general and specialized skills needed to work in that particular pharmacy



# Accreditation of Training Programs

- Chain pharmacy opposes mandatory accreditation of technician training programs
- Currently, only one accreditation program exists
- Mandating accreditation for all training programs imposes a “one size fits all” approach that is not the most practical considering the various practice settings in today’s environment



# Accreditation of Training Programs

- We are concerned about the impact of one accreditation entity for pharmacy technician training programs:
  - Limits choices available to pharmacy technicians to meet their education and training needs
  - Most accredited education programs are offered at vocational schools / community colleges, which on average cost \$8000 and require 1-2 years to complete
  - Geographically challenging to find an accredited program close to home
  - Technicians could have the further economic challenge of having to quit working full-time for a year or more to complete these programs



# Accreditation of Training Programs

- Obtaining accreditation is burdensome to employers, requiring that employer-based technician training program be accredited nationwide, irrespective of how many pharmacies are located in a specific state that may require accreditation. Technicians could potentially be forced to complete multiple programs as more Boards of Pharmacy pass requirements that have nationwide impact.



# Accreditation of Training Programs

- According to ACPE, “accreditation is best left to an independent agency that has no indirect or direct interest in the provision of training or in the activities of the graduates of the training program.”

Source: the “White paper on pharmacy technicians 2002: Needed changes can no longer wait,” the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education



# Conclusion

- Support Task Force Recommendations
- Especially, states should license/register technicians
- Support the creation of national / uniform standards for pharmacy technician training programs
  - Flexible
  - Employer-based
  - Varying regulations
- Oppose Mandatory Accreditation



# Thank You

- Questions?

