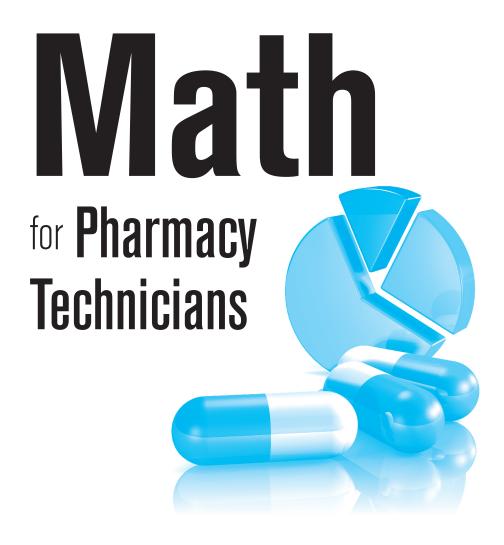


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Contents



	Introduction	ix
Chapter 1	Fundamentals of Math	1
	Objectives	1
	Arabic Numerals	1
	Roman Numerals	2
	Practice Problems 1.1	2
	Metric System	3
	Practice Problems 1.2	5
	Practice Problems 1.3	6
	Metric Conversions	6
	Practice Problems 1.4	7
	Apothecary System	7
	Practice Problems 1.5	8
	Chapter 1 Quiz	9
Chapter 2	Fractions and Decimals	11
	Objectives	11
	Fractions	11
	Addition and Subtraction	12
	Practice Problems 2.1	14
	Multiplication and Division	14
	Practice Problems 2.2	15
	Decimals	16
	Addition and Subtraction	16
	Multiplication	16
	Division	17
	Rounding	17
	Practice Problems 2.3	18
	Significant Figures	18
	Practice Problems 2.4	19
	Chapter 2 Quiz	19

vi Contents

Chapter 3	Ratio, Proportions, and Percents	21
	Objectives	21
	Ratios	21
	Practice Problems 3.1	23
	Proportions	23
	Practice Problems 3.2	26
	Percents	27
	Conversions	28
	Ratio to Percent	28
	Decimal to Percent	28
	Practice Problems 3.3	29
	Chapter 3 Quiz	30
Chapter 4	Liquid Measures	33
	Objectives	33
	Introduction	33
	Density	33
	Specific Gravity	34
	Chapter 4 Quiz	35
Chapter 5	Concentrations	37
	Objectives	37
	Weight/Weight	37
	Volume/Volume	38
	Weight/Volume	39
	Practice Problems 5.1	40
	Ratio Strength	40
	Practice Problems 5.2	42
	Chapter 5 Quiz	42
Chapter 6		45
	Objectives	45
	Stock Solutions/Solids	45
	Liquid Dilutions	46
	Solid Dilutions	47
	Practice Problems 6.1	48
	Alligations	48
	Practice Problems 6.2	51
	Chapter 6 Quiz	52
Chapter 7	Dosing	55
	Objectives	55
	Geriatrics	55

			Contents	vii
	Pediatrics	56		
	Practice Problems 7.1	57		
	Chemotherapy	58		
	Practice Problems 7.2	59		
	Chapter 7 Quiz	59		
Chapter 8	IV Admixture Calculations	61		
	Objectives	61		
	Intravenous Medications	61		
	Milliequivalents	61		
	Units	62		
	Practice Problems 8.1	63		
	TPN Solutions	63		
	IV Flow Rates	65		
	Drop Sets	66		
	Practice Problems 8.2	67		
	Chapter 8 Quiz	67		
Chapter 9	Business Math	69		
	Objectives	69		
	Inventory	69		
	Profit	70		
	Practice Problems 9.1	70		
	Selling Price	70		
	Practice Problems 9.2	72		
	Insurance Reimbursement	72		
	Practice Problems 9.3	73		
	Chapter 9 Quiz	73		
Appendix .	A Answer Keys	75		
Appendix B Common Measures and Conversions		135		
Index		137		

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Introduction



Remember:

Do not rely on mental math skills—always write equations and conversions down! Time should not be an issue when accuracy is vital.

Remember:

A calculator can be a helpful tool, but it is crucial to understand how to calculate the old-fashioned way—with pencil and paper. A calculator may help to double-check a solution, which can be beneficial in multiple-step calculations.

An essential tool for all pharmacy technicians is a full grasp of the necessary math skills needed on a daily basis in the pharmacy setting. Simply understanding the math is not enough: technicians must have the confidence to arrive at an accurate answer. While drugs can be of great help to patients, they also are powerful and potentially deadly chemicals that must be treated with the utmost respect; proper dosing is critical. Misplaced decimals, extra zeros, or "close enough" measuring are unacceptable.

Utilizing a straightforward layout, *Math for Pharmacy Technicians* focuses on the crucial terminology (terms and abbreviations) pertaining to calculating medication dosages. This text provides more than just the final answer: easy-to-follow explanations show how to complete math equations and conversions and boxed text (featuring tips, key points, and reminders) help students comprehend the material in a manner that will be beneficial when solving future problems both in this book and on the job.

The basic math skills a pharmacy technician is required to understand include fractions, decimals, and percentages. In *Math for Pharmacy Technicians*, different methods are demonstrated so that technicians will feel confident in the skills they are learning. There may be several ways to reach a solution, but technicians must understand the quickest and most accurate way to reach a solution. Practice, such as focusing on the Practice Problems and Chapter Quizzes available in this text, will help to determine the method appropriate for each situation. After completing the examples and checking the answers against the Answer Key (see Appendix A), technicians will be ready to tackle math in the pharmacy setting.

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