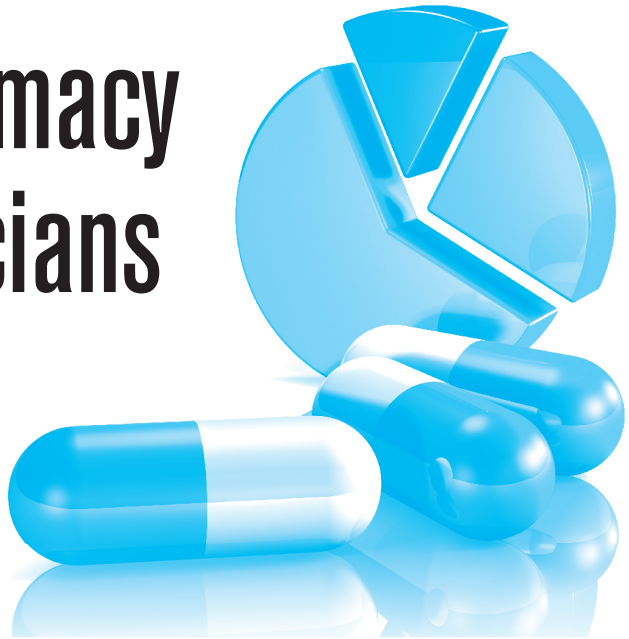
Math for Pharmacy Technicians



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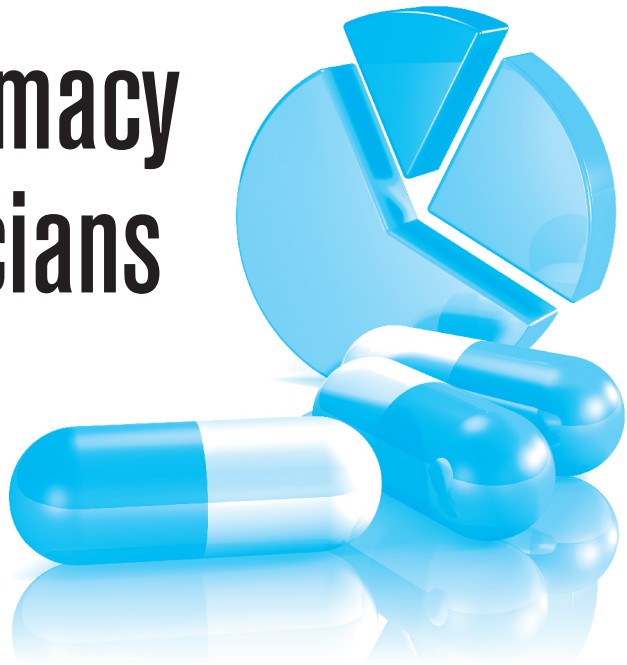

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World Headquarters
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40 Tall Pine Drive
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978-443-5000
info@jbpub.com
www.jbpub.com

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6339 Ormindale Way
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London W6 7PA
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Production Credits
Publisher: David Cella
Associate Editor: Maro Gartside
Editorial Assistant: Teresa Reilly
Production Manager: Julie Champagne Bolduc
Production Assistant: Jessica Steele Newfell
Marketing Manager: Grace Richards
Manufacturing and Inventory Control Supervisor: Amy Bacus
Composition: International Typesetting and Composition
Cover Design: Scott Moden
Cover and Title Page Image: © Norebbo/Dreamstime.com
Printing and Binding: Malloy, Inc.
Cover Printing: John Pow Company

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Zentz, Lorraine C.
Math for pharmacy technicians / Lorraine C. Zentz.
p. ; cm.
Includes index.
ISBN 978-0-7637-5961-2 (pbk. : alk. paper)
1. Pharmaceutical arithmetic. 2. Pharmacy technicians. I. Title.
[DNLM: 1. Drug Dosage Calculations. 2. Mathematics. 3. Pharmaceutical Preparations—administration & dosage. QV 748 Z56m 2010]
RS57.Z46 2010
615'.1401513—dc22
2009025969
6048
Printed in the United States of America
13 12 11 10 09 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

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.