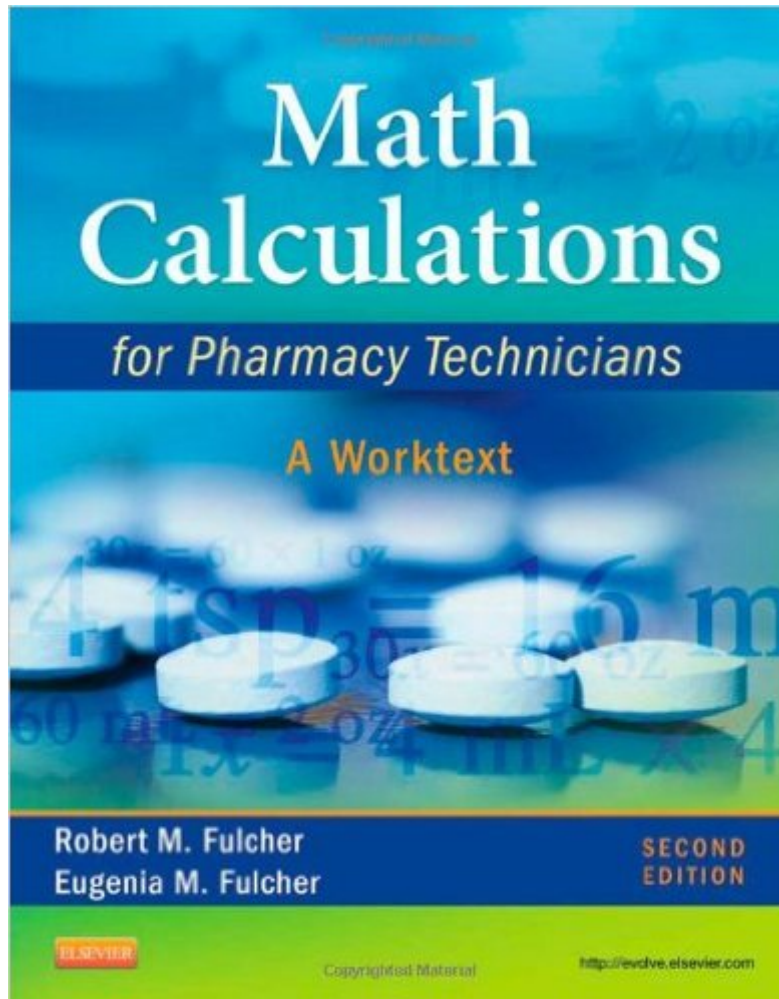


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# Math Calculations For Pharmacy Technicians: A Worktext, 2e



## Synopsis

Written for pharmacy technicians, and addressing the competencies developed by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), *Math Calculations for Pharmacy Technicians, 2nd Edition* helps you learn to calculate drug dosages safely and accurately. A practical worktext format covers everything from basic math skills to reading and interpreting labels and physicians' orders, introducing key calculation and conversion concepts and then providing hundreds of problems so you can practice and master the material. Other vital topics include conversions between the various measurement systems, reconstituting liquid medications, and calculating medications based on a patient's age or body weight. Written by experienced pharmacist Robert Fulcher and educator Eugenia Fulcher, *Math Calculations for Pharmacy Technicians* helps you learn calculation skills and develop the competencies needed by pharmacy technicians. Learning objectives and definitions of key words begin each chapter. Pretests in each chapter allow readers to assess their current knowledge of specific topics. Step-by-step examples make it easy to learn and remember how to do equations and use formulas. Hundreds of practice problems provide practice with calculations, conversions, and measurements. Actual drug labels accompany examples and problems, for real-world experience with the information you will see in pharmacy practice. *Business Math for Pharmacy Technicians* chapter introduces the calculations needed in retail pharmacy settings. Body system icons appear next to medication names to help you associate different drugs with their respective disorders and body systems. Points to Remember boxes make it easy to learn and remember key information. Review of Rules sections in each chapter summarize the rules and methods for performing equations. Chapter reviews provide a quick summary of the key concepts in each chapter. Posttests in each chapter allow you to assess how well you have learned the material. A comprehensive posttest includes 50 questions that assess your knowledge of all major topics covered in the book. Helpful study tools also include an answer key for odd-numbered problems and a comprehensive glossary. Updated content meets ASHP requirements and features new topics such as powder volume and compounding problems, formulas for reducing and enlarging medications, and opportunities to write out prescription label directions. Tech Note boxes offer helpful advice on real-life situations you may encounter in the pharmacy. Tech Alert boxes warn against common pharmacy and medication errors that could impact patients' safety. Additional prescription and practice exercises give you valuable experience with translating physician directions into patient instructions.

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this book to practice for the Certification test. I am very pleased with the content. It has given me a lot more confidence as far as the math end of things. I have noticed quite a few answers in the book that have been wrong. They could be typing errors. I have had a couple different pharmacists check over the problems and verify the answers that are in the book are not correct. This makes it more difficult to learn the content on my own when I depend on the answers to tell me if I did the problem right. Overall, I'm glad I purchased the book.

As a Pharmacy Technician, there are certain math skills that you need to have, that's where this book comes in. This book is broken up into 5 sections which include: 1) Introduction and Basic Math Skills 2) Measurements Used in Health Care Conversions among Measurement Systems 3) Medication and Prescription Orders and their Calculations 4) Special Medication Calculations 5) Business Math. So what's in the chapters and how are they organized? The chapters are organized like this: Pretest, Lessons, Post Test. This is pretty unique because you can size yourself up before you start learning the materials to gauge where you are with that particular chapter and then you can see how you perform after you've gone through the material. The book does do a good job showing step by step on how to solve a problem before the practice problems. I recommend taking notes as they will help immensely. The book does have word problems and specific problems that relate directly with pharmacy problems that you might encounter in a pharmacy setting. The types of math that you will review are: Whole Numbers, Fractions, Decimals, Percentages, Roman Numerals, Temperatures (Converting C to F), Measurement Systems (Household, Apothecary, Metric),

Interpreting Medication Labels and Orders, Calculations of Oral Doses and Dosages, Reconstitutions, Medications based on Body Weight and Age, Calculations in Units milliequivalents, IV Medications, Mixtures from Stock Medications, Business Math (Stock Prices, Gross Profit, etc). If you're trying to learn the material to take your PTCB or ExCPT exam, this book will definitely help you learn the stuff you need to know. You also have additional resources at the Evolve website which comes free with the purchase of the book. Overall, this is a great book. Don't expect to know how to do everything after a couple of glimpses, you will actually have to work out the practice problems and apply the skills you have learned to keep up with it. It's also not a bad idea to keep this book as a reference book if you ever need to touch up on your math skills.

For a second edition book, this text is wrought with errors! I am an instructor in a pharmacy technician program and this book has been nothing but a headache. The content is ok (I feel it goes above and beyond the scope of practice of most pharmacy technicians) and is organized well. However, with the number of errors in this book, I can't imagine using it to study for the PTCB exam! I would be asking myself whether I truly knew how to calculate problems due to all the wrong answers! It's not just the answers in the back that are wrong, there are practice problems at the BEGINNING of each chapter that are wrong! Even something as simple as roman numerals they manage to screw up! For instance, in the directions for using roman numerals, it states "only one smaller number may be placed either before or after a larger number". That is simply not true! How else would you make a number like 8 (viii) you MUST repeat after the larger number, there is no other way to write it! Anyway, due to the errors and the lack of self-confidence that this book instills in a student, I do NOT recommend this book to anyone!!!

If you want a lot of math practice before you take the PTCB exam, this is the book to have. It goes into every type of calculation that you will come across on the exam. There are so many practice problems that by the time you work through the whole worktext you should have the confidence needed to tackle just about any problem they throw at you.

The book has too many errors associated with each chapter. This book has confused my students many times and I have been trying to get my school to change books for a year now just because of the errors. There are not enough practice problems for the more difficult calculations and even those answers can be wrong. I have even seen the author write the concentration of a medication wrong on example problems. By chapter 11 it seems like the author gave up and began to use even less

examples and create even more errors. Even his formulas for flow rate is incorrect. Unless you want your students to be confused and almost fail I suggest you start clear off this book at all cost.

This was a good book, it is a school book though only gives the answers to every 3rd question. I would've liked more in depth explanation for the math compounding calculations (dilutions, concentrations), I had to look up more online. Other than that really helpful. I passed my PTCB exam on the first try.

I use this book to teach my class. It's a fine book but could be improved. Some errors here and there. Some of the math problems don't have examples or have too few examples, while some other simpler problems have many examples. This could pose a problem especially with later more advanced problems. People going through this book on their own might have a hard time here and there. I tend to set up the problems a little differently to make it them easier for students to understand. The way they have the problems set up sometimes are long winded. Other than that it is a decent book.

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