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For Immediate Release

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PES and PTCB Sign Agreement for a Comprehensive Analysis of Practice Marking a “Decade of PTCB Excellence”

New York, NY, May 04, 2004 — Professional Examination Service (PES) is pleased to announce an agreement with the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) for a comprehensive analysis of the practice of Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhTs). Scheduled for completion in 2005, the study marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the PTCB and the administration of the first Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination (PTCE) by PES in 1995. The study will provide an up-to-date description of what entry-level and experienced CPhTs know and do, and builds on two previous practice analysis studies completed by PES in 1994 and 1998.

Commenting on the announcement, Melissa Murer, PTCB Executive Director and CEO said, “PTCB sees the practice analysis as an essential component of the data we provide to the profession regarding the current roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians. We are pleased to be conducting the study in partnership with PES: they have a deep understanding of the PTCB and its needs, and they have a broad knowledge of the pharmacy profession through the Scope of Pharmacy Practice Project and their work with pharmaceutical specialty boards.”

I. Leon Smith, PES President and CEO said, “We have been the PTCB’s credentialing partner since its inception, and are proud of our ten-year association with an organization so committed to excellence.” Smith adds, “We are delighted to be collaborating with the PTCB in documenting the evolving role of CPhTs. Not only will the study findings form the foundation for developing future test specifications, but they will also be used to inform policy making related to new specialty certifications as well as education and training initiatives for pharmacy technicians and other pharmacy support personnel.”

The study will seek input from a broad range of stakeholders including regulators, pharmacists, and pharmacy technician educators, as well as current credential holders. PES will partner with a PTCB Practice Analysis Task Force to review current data sources and conduct critical incidents interviews in order to draft a detailed delineation of the job of pharmacy technician. The delineation will then be validated through an online survey of 4,000 CPhTs, randomly selected to represent a range of practice settings, levels of experience, and jurisdictions. The study findings will explore practice differences among CPhTs, and are due to be published in 2005 in an article commemorating PTCB’s “decade of excellence.”

About PTCB — PTCB was established in January 1995 and is governed by five organizations — the American Pharmacists Association, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists, the Michigan Pharmacists Association, and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. The goal of the PTCB national certification program is to enable pharmacy technicians to work more effectively with pharmacists to offer safe and effective patient care and service. More information about the PTCB certification program is available online at www.ptcb.org.

About PES — For more than 60 years, PES has been a leader in creating, implementing, and enhancing quality credentialing programs for clients across a broad range of occupations. Founded in 1941 as a nonprofit corporation, PES’s mission is to promote the public welfare by communicating and demonstrating the value of credentialing. PES achieves its mission by providing a unique level of personalized service and by making public service contributions in support of credentialing activities that include licensure and certification, competency assurance, accreditation, and training-related certification.