

Career of the Week Pharmacist

Also called: Dispensing chemist, community pharmacist, hospital pharmacist

Pharmacists provide expert advice on the use and supply of medicines and medical appliances



Community Pharmacy

- dispensing medicines in a high street or supermarket pharmacy
- giving healthcare advice about prescription and over-the-counter medicines
- advising on drug dosages and risks
- running screening programmes for diabetes, cholesterol or blood pressure
- visiting care homes to advise on the use and storage of medications
- ordering and controlling stock
- running a business, including supervising and training staff

Hospital Pharmacy:

- working with doctors and nurses and other healthcare staff
- producing medicines when ready-made ones aren't available, for example, cancer treatments
- buying, quality testing and distributing medicines throughout the hospital

Skills required

Pharmacists have a highly responsible job, dispensing drugs and checking prescriptions according to strict controls. You'll need:

- abilities in science and maths
- very high standards of accuracy and attention to detail
- excellent customer care and communication skills
- organisational skills and ability to prioritise work
- business skills (if you're running a community pharmacy)

UK Entry Requirements

You'll need to do a:

- 4-year Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree approved by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
- 1-year pre-registration training course in a pharmacy
- registration exam