

PHARMACY ASSISTANT

WHAT IS PHARMACY ASSISTANT?

Pharmacy Assistants work under the supervision of a pharmacist to prepare medicines, advise customers on non-medicinal products and assist in stock control.

ROLES OF PHARMACY ASSISTANT

- Refer to prescriptions to the pharmacy
- Assist in the preparation of medicines
- Select stock and attach dispensing and cautionary labels
- Put medication into administration containers
- Use computers for routine maintenance procedures
- Carry out customer service duties, such as answering enquiries and advising customers on appropriate products for use in relation to certain health related conditions
- Operate cash registers

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Employment prospects for both full- and part-time pharmacy assistant are good, due to the large numbers employed and high turnover of staff. Most are employed in the retail sector, although reasonable opportunities also exist in the health and community services area. There is also potential for advancement for those showing initiative, enthusiasm and willingness to learn, especially in larger pharmacies. Skills gained are often transferable to related industries such as retail and beauty.

QUALIFICATION REQUIRED

You can work as a pharmacy assistant without formal qualifications. However, entry to this occupation may be improved if you have qualifications.

You can also become a pharmacy assistant through a traineeship in Community Pharmacy, Health Support Services (Stores) or Health Service Assistance (Hospital and Community Health Pharmacy Assistance). Entry requirements may vary.

PERSONAL SKILLS REQUIRED OF A PHARMACY ASSISTANT

- Careful and methodical
- Willing to learn new skills
- Good communication skills
- Able to deal sensitively with customers' needs

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