

PHARMACY ASSISTANT



Approved by
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Run by :



I·R·H·C
INSTITUTE OF
RURAL HEALTH CARE

PHARMACY ASSISTANT

Course Name : Pharmacy Assistant

Course Duration : 12 months

INTRODUCTION **PHARMACY ASSISTANT**

Pharmacy assistants play a vital role in the healthcare industry by providing essential support to pharmacists in dispensing medications and advising patients on the safe and effective use of drugs. The course of pharmacy assistant is designed to train individuals in the fundamental skills required to work as a pharmacy assistant, which includes understanding drug classifications, dosage forms, prescription processing, and customer service.

The course of pharmacy assistant typically covers a broad range of topics, including pharmacology, medical terminology, drug administration, pharmaceutical calculations, and inventory management. Students will also learn about various types of drugs and their effects on the human body, as well as how to interact with patients in a professional and empathetic manner.

The course of pharmacy assistant is typically offered as a certificate program and can be completed in as little as six months to a year. The curriculum may be delivered through a combination of in-class lectures, lab work, and practical experience gained through internships or co-op placements.

Upon completion of the course, pharmacy assistants will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to assist pharmacists in providing quality healthcare to patients. They will be able to accurately read and interpret prescriptions, prepare medications, and provide basic health-related advice to patients. Additionally, they will have a strong foundation in customer service, which is crucial in the pharmacy setting as they will be interacting with patients on a regular basis.

Overall, the course of pharmacy assistant is an excellent option for individuals interested in pursuing a career in healthcare and making a positive impact on the lives of others. It provides a solid foundation for entry-level positions in pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare settings, and can also serve as a stepping stone for further education and career advancement in the pharmaceutical industry.

DESIRABLE AND BENEFITS OF PHARMACY ASSISTANT

A medication must undergo checks and permissions before being approved by a doctor. It is tested in a laboratory, analyzed for dosage and side effects, and only then instructions for prescription are formulated. The drugs then undergo clinical trials and only then they are launched into the market after researching all the potential effects of the drug. It is all involved in the pharmacy career in India. The role of a pharmacist in the treatment of a patient is as important as a doctor's role. A Pharmacist is also responsible for bringing new medication to different medical professionals.

The pharmacist job does not really end here. By interacting with medical practitioners and distributors for any adverse reactions, symptoms, and allergies, he or she researches and tracks all medications and commodities with consumer surveys. Pharmacy essentially covers everything from the food you eat to the cosmetics, lifestyle products, safety, and chemical items you use that contribute to your well-being.

Regulation: A career as pharmacist requires regulating drugs by tracking medication therapies and by providing apt guidance on various treatments. A Pharmacist can provide medicines in rural areas, as the doctors in rural areas are in low quantity.

Coordination: Pharmacists are also responsible for coordinating and directing the workflow of the technicians, they are required to check prescriptions as well as preparation, costs, audits, and branding.

Domain understanding: A career as pharmacist requires a pharmaceutical understanding of healthcare personnel through involvement in medical programmes. A pharmacist is responsible for training pharmacy staff, graduates, apprentices, externals, and medical professionals. A Pharmacist is required to maintain databases of illegal substances and eliminate expired and defective medicines from the stock of pharmacies.

Supervision: A Pharmacy as a career is required to comply with federal and state drug laws in accordance with the state pharmacy board, drug enforcement administration, and food and drug administration by monitoring the examination of nursing units.

Patient service: The role of pharmacist is to serve patients by planning drugs, providing the multidisciplinary healthcare team with pharmaceutical information, tracking drug therapies for patients, preparing drugs by evaluating and analyzing directions from doctors, and recognizing medical discrepancies.

Working under the supervision of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists, pharmacy assistants typically take care of the administrative side of the pharmacy such as counting medication, labeling bottles, stocking pharmacy shelves, taking customer phone calls, and managing the cash register.

Typical day-to-day responsibilities include:

- answering medication questions over the phone and in-person
- assessing patients' prescription for completeness
- helping process third-party insurance claims
- stocking over-the-counter medication
- measuring pills, ointments, and creams
- packaging and labeling prescription medications
- entering patient information and prescription in the system
- placing orders for stock to maintain inventory
- accepting payment for prescriptions

Pharmacy assistants must be able to perform routine tasks while maintaining a high degree of accuracy and concentration. While pharmacy assistants carry out important daily tasks, there are things they cannot do including but not limited to signing off on prescriptions, giving recommendations on over-the-counter medication, and advising a customer on their medication. These tasks can only be carried out by a pharmacist or a pharmacy technician.

Syllabus:

Total Course Duration: 360-hour

Module 1: Introduction to Pharmacy Assisting (20 hours)

- i. Role and responsibilities of a Pharmacy Assistant 6hrs
- ii. History and evolution of pharmacy practice 8hrs
- iii. Basic pharmacology and medical terminology 6hrs

Module 2: Prescription Processing (80 hours)

- i. Reading and interpreting prescriptions 14hrs
- ii. Calculating dosages 13hrs
- iii. Compounding medications 14hrs
- iv. Filling prescriptions and labeling medications 14hrs
- v. Understanding drug interactions and contraindications 12hrs
- vi. Verifying insurance and processing payments 13hrs

Module 3: Pharmacy Operations (60 hours)

- i. Inventory management and ordering supplies 12hrs
- ii. Medication storage and handling 12hrs
- iii. Pharmacy law and regulations 12hrs
- iv. Quality assurance and control 12hrs
- v. Customer service and communication skills 12hrs

Module 4: Patient Care (80 hours)

- i. Interacting with patients and healthcare providers 15hrs
- ii. Maintaining patient records and confidentiality 16hrs
- iii. Dispensing medications 14hrs
- iv. Providing patient education and counseling 18hrs
- v. Handling and resolving patient complaints 17hrs

Module 5: Pharmacy Specializations (40 hours)

- i. Introduction to specialized areas of pharmacy (e.g. compounding, long-term care, hospice, etc.) 20hrs
- ii. Overview of common medications and treatments used in specialized areas. 20hrs

Module 6: Professional Development (40 hours)

- i. Career options and job opportunities for Pharmacy Assistants 15hrs
- ii. Resume writing and interviewing skills 15hrs
- iii. Continuing education opportunities for professional growth 10hrs

Module 7: Practicum (40 hours)

- i. Hands-on experience in a pharmacy setting 20hrs
- ii. Application of skills and knowledge learned throughout the course 20hrs

Job Opportunity

Along with administrative skills, the job requires customer interaction. Pharmacy assistants, along with pharmacists, are the frontline of health care. They play a key role in helping people get their medication easily and on time and may also require you to work evenings and weekends. On the

other hand, the job is rewarding — you are helping people every day achieve better health and your services can improve the quality of their life. The role requires you to deal with new customers, prescriptions, and medications and because of that, there is always something new to learn.

To be successful in the role, a pharmacy assistant must have the following skills and characteristics: attention to detail, effective communication skills, a caring attitude, and the ability to remain calm under an urgent or stressful situation. On top of these, Sharma commented that a life-long learning aptitude can help a pharmacy assistant succeed. Such a professional needs to be updated with Canada's commonly used drugs (both branded and generic), provincial and federal regulations, and pharmacy computer systems.

Becoming a pharmacy assistant is also a great way to gain experience within the pharmaceutical industry. With additional training, you can move to other professions with additional responsibilities such as pharmacy technicians.

There are a number of careers available in pharmacy and Pharmacy Assistants can become specialists in a number of different areas that lead to roles such as;

- Cosmetic Consultants
- Vitamin and Health Food Consultants
- Dispensary Assistants
- Stock Control Managers
- Retail Pharmacy Managers
- A Pharmacy Assistant's Job Is Rewarding

Last but certainly not least, a pharmacy assistant's job is extremely rewarding. You'll be greeting customers all day either in person or by phone, and you'll be working as part of a team helping to make sure that people in your community get the medications they need. The work that a pharmacy assistant does makes a difference in people's lives on a daily basis, and by communicating compassionately and attentively with customers, a pharmacy assistant can help them feel comfortable and cared for.

In India, the pharmaceutical sector is rising at a faster rate, marked by a series of mergers and acquisitions and an increase in foreign direct investment. Indian pharmaceutical companies' production costs are up to sixty-five percent lower than those of US firms and about half those of European companies. Indian pharmaceutical development has been at a faster rate. The factor behind this is related to the globalization, democratization, and modernization of the Indian economy and partly due to an increasing rate of the aging population and modern medical and diagnostic technologies.

Chemical research may have been accomplished by identifying new medicines or by developing them. A pharmacy career in India has lots of scope in different parts of the country such as Chennai, Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida, and Gurgaon. India's pharmaceutical industry is the most mature and innovative among both developed and developing countries.

Minimum Eligibility

The minimum qualification for admission is class 10th Passed from any recognized board in India.