

Pharmacy Career Pathway – Pharmacy Technicians



Step 1

Assistant Technical Officer (ATOs)

Gain a level 2 qualification while you work. Completion of competencies in dispensing accuracy and controlled drugs dispensing.

Specialise in dispensary, ward based services, technical services, provision and procurement.

Subject to satisfactory completion of training you will have access to permanent vacancies within the department and possible progression.

Opportunities to undertake further training after 2 years dispensing experience to become an Accuracy Checking Dispensing Assistant.

Possible progression into management roles.

Step 2

Student Pharmacy Technician

Duration: 24 months (fixed term contract).

Gain a Level 3 qualification while you work – rotate between dispensary, ward based services, technical services and provision and procurement.

Completion of competencies in dispensing accuracy and controlled drugs dispensing if not already completed.

Opportunities to undertake further training to become an Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician upon registration with the GPhC after completion of above competencies.

Allocated study time.

Paid at 70% of a Band 4 in Year 1 of qualification and 75% of Band 4 in Year 2 of qualification.

Step 3

Band 4 - Rotational Pharmacy Technician

Upon successful completion of student pharmacy technician course and registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council.

Rotation around 3 areas of hospital pharmacy; dispensary, ward based medicines optimisation and technical services.

Completion of competencies in dispensing accuracy and controlled drugs dispensing if not already completed.

Opportunities to undertake further training to become an Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician after completion of above competencies.

Supporting the Medicines Safety Team in pharmacy with the completion of audits; controlled drug, fridge and medicines storage audits.

Band 5 - Senior Pharmacy Technician

Specialising in an area of pharmacy after a period of qualification and registration as a pharmacy technician.

Completion of competencies in dispensing accuracy, controlled drugs dispensing and attainment of ACPT qualification if not already completed.

Some line management and training responsibilities.

Step 4

Band 6 - Lead Pharmacy Technician

Taking professional responsibility and leading in your specialist area – you will work with your senior pharmacist on projects and subjects affecting your specialism.

A certain amount of operational work is also expected.

Completion of competencies in dispensing accuracy, controlled drugs dispensing and attainment of ACPT qualification if not already completed.

Being a professional role model

Additional training may be undertaken which includes the Level 4 clinical diploma in pharmacy and the ILM Level 5 management course. Additional 'in house' training courses run by the trust area available to support development.

Clinical pharmacy technicians – working closely with senior pharmacists for this speciality (medical, surgical, frailty, front of house), to provide a comprehensive service to that speciality.

Pharmacy support staff sometimes go onto university to gain their MPharm degree to qualify as a Pharmacist – some additional qualifications may be required – check with individual organisations before applying.