

# Pharmacy Technician factsheet

## What is a pharmacy technician?

A pharmacy technician is a senior member of the pharmacy team. They work on the front line of health care supporting patients in a range of community settings.

Alongside pharmacists, they work to ensure patients get their medicines safely and effectively and understand how to take their medication.

## What does a pharmacy technicians do?

Pharmacy technicians are often the first point of contact for patients. They play an essential role in:

- providing healthcare guidance and information to patients
- taking in prescriptions, preparing and dispensing medicines
- supporting patients to access to health service
- managing medicine stock, including ordering medicines.
- delivering public health advice
- supervising other pharmacy staff / training and development

## How do I become a pharmacy technician?

Pharmacy technicians working in England, Scotland and Wales must register with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). There are a number of steps you must take before you can register with the GPhC as a technician:

- Training to become a pharmacy technician takes two years. The training programme combines practical work and study and you must work under the guidance of a pharmacist or pharmacy technician.
- During this time, you will need to be enrolled on a course accredited or recognised by the GPhC.
- Finally, you must meet the fitness to practice requirement for registration. This means you have the skills, knowledge, character and health necessary to do your job safely.

Visit the [GPhC website](#) to find accredited or recognised courses.

## What are the entry requirements to becoming a pharmacist?

The entry requirements vary, but as a general rule you will need four GCSEs at Grade 4 and above (or equivalent), including mathematics, English language and two sciences.

## Five great reasons to train as pharmacy technician!

1. I want to help people to get well.
2. I want to work directly with patients.
3. I want to gain a highly sought-after professional qualification whilst working and earning.
4. I want to support health services which make a difference to patients.
5. I want to be accountable for my own practice and have a leadership role.

## What skills and personal characteristics do I need to become a pharmacy technician?

- Interested in people's health
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and social skills
- Professional
- Responsible and of the highest integrity
- Attention to detail
- Ability to multitask