

CUH Pharmacy Department

This booklet aims to provide information about the range of services provided by and job roles within the Pharmacy department at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

If you want to work in an environment that's interesting, rewarding and challenging, a career in CUH pharmacy will give you plenty of scope to do exactly that.



You can join the department via the following routes:

- Pharmacist (qualified or pre-registration trainee)
- Pharmacy technician (qualified or pre-registration trainee)
- Pharmacy apprentice
- Pharmacy support worker
- Informatics / data analyst
- Administrative and clerical

Opportunities

The opportunities for career development, job satisfaction and flexible working are great, whilst giving you the opportunity to make a real difference to patient care.

Patients are at the heart of our Pharmacy service, which is wide ranging and cutting edge. We aim to enhance patient safety, patient experience and improve clinical outcomes with timely provision of medicines optimisation activities.

Clinical services

Clinical Pharmacy services care for patients on the inpatient hospital wards. The team consists of clinical pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are experienced in discussing medicines with patients. The pharmacy team cares for patients whether newly admitted to hospital or on life support (intensive care). We look after everyone: babies, children, adults and the elderly. Some clinical pharmacists and pharmacy technicians work in specialist outpatient clinics.

This service is patient-facing making it incredibly rewarding as patient care is at the heart of what we love to do.

What does working in this area involve?

Clinical Pharmacists:

- Supporting patients with taking and using their prescribed medicines
- Helping patients understand why and how to take their medicines
- Ensuring new and regular medicines are safe for patients to take
- Working with the doctors to ensure that medicines prescribed are necessary
- Supporting doctors to adjust medication, taking into account changes in the condition of a patient (e.g. reduced kidney function causing a reduction in removal of the medicine)
- Some clinical pharmacists undertake additional studies allowing them to prescribe medicines (known as independent prescribing)
- Clinical pharmacists work with nurses on the wards to ensure our patients get their medicines as intended
- All medicines supplied from our pharmacy are checked by a pharmacist.

Clinical Pharmacy technicians:

- Working with pharmacists, doctors and nurses on the wards
- Supporting patients with taking and using their prescribed medicines
- Helping patients understand why and how to take their medicines
- Ensuring that each patient's record of medicines is updated on the electronic patient record
- Ensuring that each patient's regular medicines are prescribed alongside newly prescribed medicines
- Preparing patients medicines when they are going home

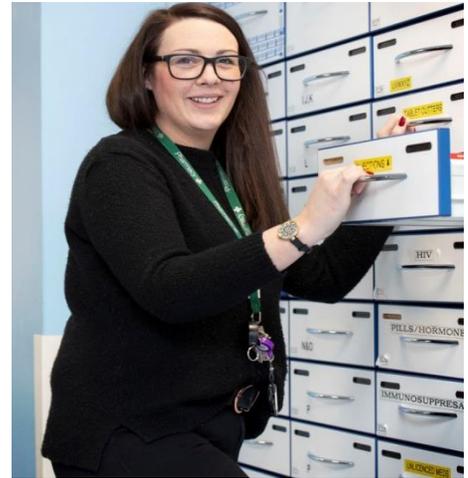


Inpatient dispensary

We are mainly responsible for dispensing medication on a patient-by-patient basis. We process requests for inpatients, outpatients attending clinic appointments, discharges and local primary care providers i.e. hospices. We also provide controlled drugs (medication with strict legislation due to its potential for abuse) to wards, clinics and theatres. The Inpatient pharmacy is also open 7 days a week and serves as the base for the resident pharmacist who is the sole point of call for the hospital once the department closes. The dispensary is made up of a small but experienced team of static staff - but all members of Pharmacy across the Trust work within this department at some point making the success of the department very much a team effort.

What does working in this area involve?

- Dispensing
- Accuracy checking
- Clinical verification of work
- Ordering stock
- Stock control including filling the robot with medication after delivery
- Troubleshooting queries
- Dealing with supply queries and supplying alternatives where appropriate
- Offering advice across the Trust relating to formulary choices



Clinical Trials

We are responsible for providing a clinical pharmacy and research support service for identified clinical trials conducted in Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH), and ensuring all our trials are conducted in accordance to GCP, GMP and all other relevant medicines regulations and ethical requirements.

What does working in this area require from staff?

- Ability to review and assess trials documents
- Set up and maintain trials in a timely fashion
- Dispensing trial medicines to patients accurately in a fast-moving clinical trials dispensary and aseptic dispensary
- To have good record keeping skills
- Effective communication utilising verbal and written skills, with internal (patients, site investigators, research nurses, clinics, wards, trial co-ordinators, R&D, various pharmacy teams) and external groups (sponsors, regulatory agencies, pharmaceutical suppliers)
- Awareness of legislation and requirements relevant to clinical trials (e.g. Good Clinical Practice, Good Manufacturing Practice, MHRA, REC and HRA)



Pharmacy Stores and Distribution

We focus on safe and effective procurement and purchasing of all medicinal products for use in the Trust. We provide a pharmacy distribution service to clinical areas within the Trust and advice on appropriate storage and waste processes. Additionally, we comply with Regulatory Standards for Wholesale Dealing and Good Distribution Practice.

As a member of our team, you will:

- Work pro-actively to optimise timely supply of medications to wards, clinics and dispensaries
- Deliver value for money for our patients and the Trust
- Mitigate the need of urgent items
- Minimise the risk of any lack of supplies
- Support the wider pharmacy team with effective procurement



eHospital and Informatics

We support the technological and digital use of medicines within the Trust. This includes the maintenance, design and build development of the Trust's electronic prescribing system (Epic) with respect to medicines. We provide an analytical service, to assist the department and the Trust in reporting on the usage of medicines with our systems.

What does working in this area involve?

- Becoming Epic certified in the pharmacy applications of Epic via training at Epic headquarters in Madison, USA
- Working with end users and other teams to design, build and deploy changes which may be required within the system, e.g. drugs, order-sets, clinical protocols and clinical trials

Preparatory services and Quality Assurance

We provide specialised and complex injectable products for administration to specific patients who cannot be treated with a commercially available product. Tailoring injectable therapy to the individual needs of patients improves patient outcomes and adds value to the patient experience. We use quality management methodology to guarantee, safety, efficacy, consistency of action, reproducibility and cost effectiveness.

What does working in this area involve?

- Formulation – the application of mathematics, chemistry, physics biology and toxicology to medicine design.
- Dexterity – an ability to use sterile equipment in a skilful way to ensure the final product is free from microbial contamination.
- Good communication skills with other healthcare professionals, patients and carers.
- Playing a significant part in battle against, Cancer and Intestinal failure and helping support and develop complex therapies like transplantation.



Medicines Information

The Addenbrooke's Medicines Information Service helps support the safe, effective and efficient use of medicines by the provision of evidence-based information and advice. Our focus is on supporting individual patients with their medicines through medicines optimisation and supporting medicines management within the organisation. We are specialists in information and form part of the UKMi knowledge sharing network within the NHS.



In this role, you will:

- Respond to pharmacy or medicines related telephone enquiries from healthcare professionals. This may include (but not limited to):
 - Pharmaceutical stability
 - Breast feeding / Pregnancy compatibility
 - Drug Interactions
 - Toxicology, substance misuse and overdose
- Manage pharmacy information resources.
- Respond to medicines enquiries relating to discharge prescriptions (via secure nhs.net email and telephone).
- Respond to patient enquiries via the Patient Helpline
- Coordinate therapeutic drug monitoring and pharmacy alerts.

Education and Training

The Education and Training (E&T) team supports the personal and professional development of all Pharmacy staff, to enhance their effectiveness in their roles and encourage career progression. We recognise existing experience and qualifications and ensure opportunities for future development are available for all pharmacy staff.

As a member of the E&T team, you may be:

- Providing support for learners who are undertaking personal and professional developmental courses and qualifications
- Providing support for designated tutors / educational supervisors responsible for overseeing learner progress
- Exploring new innovative ideas to enhance and develop our existing learning and development opportunities for all pharmacy staff
- Examples of training support include :
 - Pre-registration trainee pharmacists and pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians
 - Postgraduate Pharmacy Diploma
 - Pharmacy Support staff – NVQ L2 (or equivalent)
 - Specialist roles – post qualification courses e.g. Independent Prescribing (IP) , Medicines Management Skills & Medicines Reconciliation (MMS & MR)



Contacts and useful information:



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www.careers.cuh.nhs.uk



@CUH_Pharmacy



The Health careers website provides further information regarding all careers within the NHS



<http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>



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