

Pharmacy technician

Pharmacy technicians are essential to the smooth running of pharmacies, making sure patients get the most out of their medicines.

Working life

You'll work under the supervision of a pharmacist. You'll speak with patients, offering them advice about how best to manage their medicines.

Your typical day could involve giving medicines to patients, either on prescription or over the counter and providing information on potential side-effects. You'll work with patients to reach the best possible care for them, advising them on their health, how to take their medicines and their lifestyle choice. This could be face-to-face or over the phone.



Sometimes you'll need to refer patients on to another healthcare professional such as a pharmacist, doctor, nurse or allied health professional. You'll also be responsible for the supply of medicines at the pharmacy by working in the dispensary.

You may supervise other pharmacy staff, such as pharmacy assistants.



Pay and benefits

If you're working in the NHS, newly qualified pharmacy technicians will usually start at band 4 of the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scale. You'll also have access to a generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as at least 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

Terms and conditions can vary for pharmacy technicians outside of the NHS, including those working in community pharmacies, or for other employers that provide NHS services.

Where will I work?

- hospitals
- community pharmacies
- GP practices
- care homes
- patient's homes
- prisons
- the armed forces
- pharmaceutical industry

Must-have skills

- good communication skills
- ability to work effectively with your colleagues, patients and the public

- be able to maintain confidentiality and privacy
- to be responsible, accurate and methodical, with good attention to detail
- an interest in helping people and improving people's health

How to become a pharmacy technician

You'll need to complete a two-year accredited pharmacy technician course involving a mix of practical work experience and study. You'll usually be employed by a pharmacy as a pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician and study for a level 3 apprenticeship.

You will need to complete a two-year training programme comprising practical work experience and study.

You can then register with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and practise as a qualified pharmacy technician.

Entry requirements

Typically, you will need four GCSE or equivalent at A*-C/9-4 including mathematics, English language, science and one other subject to undertake the level 3 Pharmacy Technician (Integrated) apprenticeship.

Training and development

You will be required to keep your skills and knowledge up to date with annual continuing professional development (CPD) and formal assessments with the General Pharmaceutical Council to make sure your skills are up to date.

Your employer may offer in-house training and there are also regional and national courses and qualifications available.

Where your career can take you

- You could become a senior pharmacy technician, responsible for the work of other pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants.
- You may even decide to go into management and leadership roles.
- You could specialise, in areas such as mental health, oncology (cancer treatment) or paediatrics.
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**Further
information**

**Expand /
collapse**

- Read some real-life stories ^[6] from Health Education England.

**Live NHS
vacancies**

**Expand /
collapse**

- View Vacancy ^[7]

Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician

Croydon Health Services, Croydon, CR7 7YE

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Salary:

£26,447 - £28,780 £19,637 pa inc HCAS (year 1) - £

■

Type:

Fixed term

■

Employer:

Croydon Health Services NHS Trust

■ View Vacancy

- View Vacancy ^[8]

Reg Facilitator: Preregistration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians

Leeds, LS1 4PL

■

Salary:

£47126.00 a year



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

Health Education England



Cross sector training Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician

Derby, DE1 2BU



Salary:

£4.62 to £8.91 an hour



Type:

Apprenticeship



Employer:

Central Advertising - Social Enterprises



Cross sector training Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician

Derby, DE1 2BU



■ **Salary:**

£4.62 to £8.91 an hour

■ **Type:**

Apprenticeship

■ **Employer:**

Central Advertising - Social Enterprises

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) ^[11]

Cross Sector Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician

Hereford, HR1 2HE

■ **Salary:**

Depending on experience

■ **Type:**

Apprenticeship

■ **Employer:**

Central Advertising - Other

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) ^[12]

Pharmacy Technician

Claygate, KT10 0EH

■ **Salary:**

Negotiable depending on experience

■

Type:

Permanent

■ **Employer:**

Central Advertising - General Practitioners

- View Vacancy

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Find your course to become a pharmacy technician

Expand / collapse

Region

Type of qualification

Full or part time

Displaying 1 - 1 of 1 matches

Various courses

General Pharmaceutical Council Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

[13]

- Region
 - All UK
- Type of course
 - Undergraduate

- Full or part time
 - Part time
- Duration
 - Various durations
- Contact details
 - 0203 713 8000
 - More information regarding the course webpage
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacy-technician/accredited-cours...> [13]
- Admissions address
 - 25 Canada Square
 - London
 - E14 5LQ
- Course webpage (All course links open in new window)
 - More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacy-technician/accredited-cours...> [13]

We do not hold information on accredited courses that will train you to become a pharmacy technician. For details of accredited and recognised courses, please visit the website for the General Pharmaceutical Council [13]

Other roles that may interest you

- Pharmacist [14]
- Pharmaceutical medicine [15]
- Clinical pharmaceutical science [16]
- Experienced paramedic [17]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacy-technician>

Links

[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Agenda_for_Change

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary%22%20/!%20%22AfC%22%20/o%20%22Agenda%20for%20Change.%2>

[3] <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/approved-providers-education-and-training/approved-courses-pharmacy-technician>

[4] <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacy-technician>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Oncology>

[6] <https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/pharmacy/workforce-development/pharmacy-technicians-case-studies>

[7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916728405>

[8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916720585>

[9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916718283>

[10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916718284>

[11] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916746366>

[12] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916717375>

[13] <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacy-technician/accredited-courses>

[14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacist/pharmacist>

[15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/pharmaceutical-medicine>

[16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/clinical-pharmaceutical-science>

[17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic>