

## What is a pharmacist?

Pharmacists provide an important role in the healthcare system through the supply and management of medicines.

## What does a pharmacist do?

In a hospital, a pharmacist's duties are many and varied but all aim to ensure the quality use of medicines. As a hospital pharmacist you:

- Dispense and manufacture medications
- Provide medicines information and advice to doctors and nurses
- Counsel patients on how to use and manage their medications
- Work alongside other health practitioners
- Impact patient care and make decisions on treatment
- Work with the community
- Have involvement in the management of clinical trials.

*“Working as a sole rural pharmacist, I enjoy learning groundbreaking techniques and being constantly challenged. I enjoy the interaction with my colleagues on a daily basis and benefit from their experience and knowledge. At the end of the day this is a very rewarding and exciting profession to be a part of.”*

*Mary Elliot – Rural Pharmacist*

## Is this you?

- great analytical skills
- love to work in a team
- enjoy being challenged
- interested in science and chemistry
- enjoy serving the community
- great attention to detail.



## Where can a pharmacist work?

Like many professions, pharmacists can work in a variety of arenas such as:

- In the community, own your own business or providing Home Medicines Review (HMR)
- Private and public hospitals
- Other – pharmaceutical industry, academia, defence force, public services and administrative roles.

## Can a pharmacist specialise?

Yes. Hospital pharmacists currently undertake a diversity of roles in the health care system. There are constant innovative changes to the pharmacists' role to ensure the safe and effective use of medications. Some areas of specialisation of the hospital pharmacist include:

- Drug information such as through the QLD Drug Information Centre (QDIC)
- Clinical specialisations such as paediatrics, renal, oncology, cardiovascular and infectious diseases
- Manufacturing and extemporaneous production
- Providing telepharmacy services to rural and remote areas
- Management roles.

## How can I become a pharmacist?

All you need to do to become a part of this exciting profession and qualify for registration as a pharmacist in Queensland, is complete a four year undergraduate degree, followed by a year as an intern pharmacist practicing under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. There are scholarships available to support your education and career as a hospital pharmacist working in rural and remote areas of Queensland.

## Where can I find more information?

### Clinical and Statewide Services

[www.health.qld.gov.au/qhcss/default.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qhcss/default.asp)

### Queensland Government

[www.qld.gov.au/about/jobs-and-work/jobseeking.html](http://www.qld.gov.au/about/jobs-and-work/jobseeking.html)

### Society of Hospital Pharmacists

[www.shpa.org.au/careers/careers.html](http://www.shpa.org.au/careers/careers.html)

### Queensland Board of Pharmacists

[www.pharmacyboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.qld.gov.au)

### Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

[www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

### Pharmacy Guild of Australia

[www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)

**To find out more about the exciting career opportunities in Queensland Health and what we can offer you go to:**

[www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus)

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