

## A Job Shadow Experience Leads to a Career as a Pharmacist

### What is the name of your company?

LECOM Senior Living Center Pharmacy

### What does this company do?

Long term care pharmacy that serves 3 skilled nursing facilities, 2 personal care homes, the VNA hospice, and the GLOW clinic

### What is the size of this company?

We have about 15 members of our staff and our pharmacy serves about 400 skilled nursing beds and about 100 personal care residents.

### How long have you been with this company?

5 years

### What is your job title?

Pharmacy Manager

### What is the nature of your position at your organization?

I manage the pharmacy in day-to-day operations as well as staff as a pharmacist

### Describe your day-to-day job/work related tasks and activities.

Daily tasks as a staff pharmacist are to review medications for admissions into our facility, evaluated for drug interactions, check doses for patient based on renal function, check for orders of omission and or gaps in care based on the

patient's diagnosis. As a manager, it is my responsibility to write the schedule for the pharmacists, code invoices, evaluate our formulary and budget, renew insurance contracts, assist with billing, interview potential new employees, and review policies and procedures.

### What is your educational background?

Bachelor's degree in Biology, Doctor of Pharmacy, Board certified Medication Therapy management pharmacist

### Is this the career you chose initially, or have there been changes in your career choices?

I always knew that I wanted to go into healthcare, and I shadowed a pharmacist near the end of high school and really developed a passion for this career.

### What are the best things about your career?

I love the feeling of helping people and providing lifesaving services. I also love the appreciation that people show when we provide them with good service.

### What are the challenges faced in your career?

Since I started in pharmacy in 2005, the area of pharmacy has changed dramatically. We have grown from just filling

prescriptions to providing vaccinations as well as doing medication therapy management. Insurance companies are decreasing reimbursement for medications so to stay profitable; we have had to expand our forte of services to accommodate this decrease.

### What qualities are important for you to hold the position you have?

I must have good conflict resolution among my staff. I also must be able to produce unique solutions to inconvenient situations (thinking creatively). Interprofessional communication is also particularly important because we must be able to work with many members of the patients' medical team including physicians, social workers, physical therapists, nurses, and dieticians.

### What would people be surprised to know about you or your career?

There are many diverse types of pharmacy, besides the



Liz Johnson, Pharmacy Manager



normal retail pharmacists that people usually associate with the career. Some of the other areas include compounding pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, nuclear pharmacy, research and development, and clinical pharmacy. This career leaves many avenues that can be pursued to best fit a person's desires.



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