

General Practice Pharmacist

Key responsibilities/core roles

The role of the General Practice Pharmacist is diverse and should be adapted to the needs of the practice setting through collaborative agreement. It is suggested that using the *PSA General Practice Pharmacist – Practice Needs Assessment Tool* to identify the services of most value to the particular practice and its patients and is the most appropriate way to define the role of the pharmacist. The following provides an overview of some of the key duties and responsibilities.

The core roles of a General Practice Pharmacist can be grouped into four distinct categories including patient-directed services, staff-directed services, practice-based quality assurance activities and liaison services. The following non-exhaustive list provides some examples of the tasks that a General Practice Pharmacist may undertake.

Patient directed services

- Providing in-practice General Practitioner (GP) referred, patient requested or pharmacist-identified medicine consultations;
- Collaborating with community and hospital pharmacists to ensure medication reconciliation and management strategies are supported and enhanced;
- Providing education to patients on all medication related issues including disease prevention;
- Identifying documenting and following up with patients regarding adverse drug events;
- Point of care testing (e.g. blood glucose, INR, blood pressure) to support medication management.

Practice-based quality assurance activities

- Supporting improvements in clinical practice by conducting Drug Utilisation Reviews (DURs) and Drug Use Evaluations (DUEs).
- Assisting the practice to meet Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) standards and accreditation. This may include audits of accuracy of data regarding medicines in software (i.e. medication reconciliation, medicines samples, disposal procedures for cytotoxic medicines etc);
- Identifying, initiating and conducting in-practice research activities.

Staff-directed services

- Delivering education sessions (including new evidence, guidelines, and therapies) to doctors and practice staff;
- Providing tailored medication education sessions to medical students and general practice registrars;

- Responding to medicine information queries including questions relating to medication formulas, medication availability and specific medication concerns from GP's (e.g. switching anticoagulants, antidepressants, opioid equivalence).

Liaison services

- Providing liaison services between all health care settings;
- Informing consumers about the role of community pharmacists and advocating for engagement with new and existing community pharmacy services;
- Facilitating referral pathways to community pharmacy.

Qualifications and requirements

The selection criteria, qualifications and requirements to fulfil the core roles and key responsibilities of a General practice Pharmacist will depend on the position and requirements of each individual general practice. General requirements may include:

- Demonstrated sound clinical knowledge.
- Tertiary qualification in pharmacy with current registration as a pharmacist with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA);
- Minimum of two years post-registration experience in pharmacy (hospital, community or primary care);
- Preferably hold or be working toward accreditation for the delivery of Medication Management Reviews;
- May hold other certificates or be working toward other relevant qualifications. Examples may include but are not limited to postgraduate clinical pharmacy, diabetes educator, asthma educator.

Key attributes

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including the ability to influence and facilitate change;
- Demonstrated ability to develop and deliver presentations to small groups, including written communication skills;
- The ability and the enthusiasm to work independently and as part of a team;
- Well-developed organisational skills including time management.