

Pharmacists

The pharmacist's role may be quite diverse, depending upon the practice environment. Pharmacists working in community or hospital settings are responsible for compounding and dispensing prescribed drug products for their patients; providing advice on the appropriate selection and use of medication; monitoring drug therapy for efficacy and safety; preventing or resolving drug-related problems including drug interactions; maintaining medication profiles for patients; providing drug information and educational programs for patients and other health care professionals, and conducting research. Pharmacy managers may be responsible for supervising the activities of other pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other staff and for developing policies regarding the safe and effective use of medication. Pharmacists working in industry may be involved with the research, development, marketing or surveillance of new drug products. Pharmacists working in government may be involved with the development and maintenance of drug formularies and determining health policy.

The requirements to practice pharmacy in Canada include a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy and completion of a national board examination through the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada. Licensure by a regulatory body is required in all provinces and territories. Continuing education and/or practice competency assessment is an ongoing requirement for pharmacists to maintain licensure to practice.

For more information, visit the websites listed below:

Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board – <http://www.nlpb.ca/>

Canadian Pharmacists Association - www.pharmacists.ca

National Occupation Classification 2006 - <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2006/Welcome.aspx>