

Pharmacy Technician Spotlight

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Why I Do What I Do: The Job Tasks that I Find Most Fulfilling

I work in a correctional facility, a rather unique healthcare setting, The clientele consists of some hardened men and women but also of some, perhaps the majority, who have simply taken wrong paths in their lives and have been led astray by the call of drugs and alcohol. Many of the clientele have mental health issues and it seems that almost all of them have been the product of dysfunctional family life in their formative years. These people, who suffer from the same maladies that afflict the general populace, are perhaps in greater need for attentive care than most others. I enjoy assisting the medical staff in maintaining accurate records of our patients and their medications; I always take the extra step of calling the patients to the pharmacy for an interview when there is a question about their therapy. I most certainly enjoy the one-on-one interaction with our patients.

Latest Accomplishment:

My latest accomplishment is an ongoing one. We have patients who require very expensive medications which are non-formulary, and the prescribers try to find cheaper alternatives. Sometimes the alternatives suffice, but often they do not. I acted as a liaison between the clinic and the drug manufacturers and have been able to obtain free medications of great expense for the patients' treatment, such as Humira, Invega Sustena, Abilify Maintena and Risperdal Consta. The total cost savings has exceeded \$200,000 thus far.

Most Memorable Experience as a Pharmacy Technician

Patients are admitted under circumstances of great stress, either due to their arrests or their serious physical conditions. It is imperative that we determine what their medical and medication records indicate, but it is often very difficult to make a clear determination and to know how to proceed. On so many occasions I call the patient down to the pharmacy and try to elicit a definitive finding of community care that might have eluded the assigned social worker and triage nurse. I vividly remember calling a facility, repeatedly being transferred, and finally being told that no such a patient was known. I again interviewed the patient and got more detailed information that ultimately led to the receipt of very important information that the doctors needed.

Why I Became Certified

I fell in love with pharmacy early in the game, so getting certified seemed like the most logical step to take when I came to the realization that I can earn more and have job security. Because certification was an option, I made the decision to study and ultimately passed the certification examination. I would not have been hired by Wellpath had I not taken this path to becoming a certified pharmacy technician.

Advice to Up-and-Coming Technicians

I would certainly like new technicians to remember that their position is a ‘springboard.’ They can have a rewarding career path at the entry level and pursue subspecialty training, or go on to further educational levels, such as pharmacy school.

My Passion Outside of Work

My hobbies vary. I am a newlywed so of course I spend as much time as I can with my husband planning our future lives together. I help to care for my mother and visit her frequently. I volunteer during my free time for important causes such as food pantries and animal shelters. I enjoy good music, walks in our local parks, cinema, reading and enjoying restaurant quality food at my friend’s house.