

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



Pharmacist

Area of HCS: Pharmacy

Pay Scale: £27k - £83k

AMAZING FACT

- Coca-Cola was invented in 1886 by a pharmacist called John Pemberton. The original drink contained coco leaves (cocaine) and kola nuts (from the genus of tree 'cola') hence the name Coca-Cola. It was sold as a medicinal drink for migraines and headaches! No cocaine has been in Coca-Cola since 1903 though.

Pharmacists are amazing people, they are experts in medicines and their uses. They use their extensive knowledge to help patients and ensure they are getting the best treatment possible. Medicine is the most common treatment used in the NHS, it's vital to curing patients and it works in parallel with other therapies like surgery or talking-therapies.

As a pharmacist you would advise health professionals such as doctors and nurses on how to choose medicines and use them correctly. As new medications are given to patients you will help ensure they are safe to use, and compatible with any other treatment they are receiving. Elderly patients can be on a cocktail of many drugs so it's ridiculously important that you know your stuff so they don't get any issues or side effects.

You could be based in a hospital or in the community. These 2 different careers entail very different day-to-day working. Based in a hospital you would be participating in ward rounds to take patients drug histories, writing guidelines for drug use and even helping out in clinical trials. Whereas in the community you might run screening programmes for diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure, and give advice on the most effective treatment for a condition including off-prescriptions treatments.

What to do to get into this career...

