



Meet Nathan

Lead Pharmacist for Thrombosis and Anticoagulation

Hi, my name is Nathan. I am a Pharmacist and work in the pharmacy department at the Royal United Hospitals Bath. Find out more about me and what I do below.

What do you do?

Pharmacists are experts in medicines and their use. I am a Pharmacist who specialises in Thrombosis and Anticoagulation. I focus on the prevention and treatment of blood clots. My duties include running two weekly clinics, writing policies and guidelines and providing advice to other healthcare professionals in the hospital and the community. I run audits and service improvement projects. I am involved in training and patient education. I also work as part of the pharmacy team, providing cover on the wards and in the dispensary when needed.

Describe a typical day

I normally start my day by collecting my bleep. I carry this with me throughout the day and respond to any questions colleagues may have. During the morning I might work on a guideline or audit, attend meetings and respond to emails. In the afternoon, I go to a clinic and see patients.

What inspired you to become a pharmacist?

At school, I was good at science but I didn't want to study medicine or dentistry. I was considering studying chemistry at university but then I did some work experience in a community pharmacy. I found the experience interesting and enjoyable. I could see that pharmacists have

good career prospects and I liked the balance between patient interaction and using scientific skills.

What qualities should somebody have to become a pharmacist?

I think pharmacists should be empathetic and have a desire to help people. They must be organised and a good communicator. They also need to be methodical and be able to pay attention to detail.

What training did you have to do to become a pharmacist?

I studied Chemistry, Biology, History and Physics at A-Level. I then did a four year integrated masters degree in Pharmacy at university. After completing my university studies, I undertook a pre-registration training year in a hospital. During my training year, I had to do an exam. After passing the exam and completing the pre-registration year, I was able to register with the General Pharmaceutical Council. Since qualifying as a pharmacist, I have gained experience in different areas. I have worked as a rotational hospital pharmacist and as a pharmacist in a GP Surgery. I have completed further study and gained a post-graduate qualification in Clinical Pharmacy whilst working at the same time. I am also qualified as an independent prescriber meaning that I am able to prescribe medicines for patients.


What qualities should somebody have to become a pharmacist?

I did a research internship earlier on this year and would like to do a part-time clinical research masters in the future, whilst continuing to work in the hospital. After completing the masters, I would like to be a university lecturer alongside working as an OT in a hospital.

How did you get into this role?

When I worked at the GP Surgery, I participated in a project called 'Don't Wait to Anticoagulate' which assessed patients with atrial fibrillation who were at risk of stroke and required blood thinners. I enjoyed this project and when I saw this job vacancy come up, I thought that it was an innovative role. I applied and got the job.

What are the best parts of being a pharmacist?



I think that being a pharmacist is an exciting and rewarding role. The role has changed significantly in recent years, becoming more varied and patient-facing. I enjoy providing advice to other healthcare

Professionals and helping patients who are often very unwell. I also think that being a pharmacist offers a good work / life balance. I work Monday to Friday (9am – 5pm.) I am required to work one in six weekends (either a Saturday or Sunday.) Junior hospital pharmacists do have to work on-call but as I have progressed in my career, I no longer do this.

What advice or tips would you give somebody interested in becoming a pharmacist?

When considering your options, it's important to get a good understanding about what pharmacists do. This could be done by researching into the role, getting work experience or talking to pharmacists. This will help you decide if you would enjoy being a pharmacist and if it is the right job for you.