

# 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

See a word in **bold** and not sure what it means? Check out the [glossary](#) on the last page

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. Since the pandemic began, my clinics run remotely.



## 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 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 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.

## 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.



## Want further information?



- ⇒ Visit the [Health Careers](https://bit.ly/3olqtYw) website (<https://bit.ly/3olqtYw>)
- ⇒ Visit the [Step into the NHS](http://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk) website ([www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk](http://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk))
- ⇒ Visit [NHS jobs](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) to search and apply for vacancies at the RUH ([www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk))
- ⇒ If you have any other questions or you need this document in an alternative format, please contact us at [ruh-tr.careersengage@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.careersengage@nhs.net) or call **01225 824281** or **01225 821542**

## Glossary

Anticoagulation	Treatment using medicines which thin the blood and prevent blood clots.
Atrial fibrillation	A heart condition which causes an irregular and often unusually fast heart rate.
Audits	A review or assessment of something.
Bleep	Another word used to describe a hospital pager. It is a small device used to communicate with medical staff, often in urgent situations. For example, if a nurse needed to speak with a pharmacist, they would call the pharmacist's pager number and leave them a message. This message is then transmitted to the pager. When the message is received, the pager makes a loud 'bleep.' The pharmacist would then return the call.
Community	Healthcare organisations such as pharmacies based in shops, local healthcare centres and GP surgeries.
Community pharmacy	Pharmacies based in shops, local healthcare centres and GP surgeries.
Dispensary	A place in the hospital where medicines are prepared and given out.
Empathetic	A quality which people demonstrate by understanding and sharing the feelings of others.
<a href="#"><u>General Pharmaceutical Council</u></a>	An organisation which pharmacists must register with in order to be able to work as a pharmacist in Great Britain.
On-call	If a member of staff is on-call, they need to be available outside of work, usually at short notice, to carry out their work duties.
Rotational hospital pharmacist	These pharmacists spend time working in a variety of hospital departments.
Thrombosis	A medical term relating to a blood clot in a blood vessel.