Pharmacy

Pre-registration Interview Questions

- What are the current issues in pharmacy? Do you read any articles?
- You may be asked to identify a drug and its uses and side effects from a drug chart.
- Explain a situation where you had to work in a team. What went well and what did not?
- Name a NICE guideline you have recently read. What do you think about it?
- What is ‘Clinical Governance’?
- What is the meaning of ‘CPD’? Do you think CPD is beneficial? Why?
- Why did you choose to study Pharmacy?
- Why have you chosen hospital / community pharmacy and why specifically this hospital / pharmacy?
- What are the negative aspects of community and negative aspects of hospital?
- What did you get to do in community pharmacy?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Can you tell me a situation where you had to work in a group with a difficult person? How did you handle the situation? What did you learn from this?
- Name an antibiotic. What is it used for? Can you tell us what dose is usually prescribed? What are the main side effects of it?
- If a patient is unable to swallow tablets, what could you, as a pharmacist, do to ensure that doses are not missed of the drug?
- Which reference source may you find stability information of a drug?
- Do you know what the term ‘Concordance’ means? What factors affect concordance and how can pharmacists play a role to enhance concordance?
- What is warfarin? Name a few important drugs that warfarin interact with.
- Name three classes of drugs used for the treatment of hypertension and give an example of a drug in each class.
- Do you work well in a team? Can you give an example of when you worked in a team and what went well for you?
- Can you tell me how clinical governance will affect you, as a pharmacist, in the future?
- How do you think you are assessed for competency for the Pre-Registration year?
- What have you found easy and what have you found difficult in your degree? How did you overcome the difficult subjects?
- What medications would you see on a prescription for a patient diagnosed with heart failure?
- What do you think the future holds for pharmacy?
- Do you prefer to be a leader of a team or are you a more passive member?
- Describe some personal qualities that you have that would help you as a future pharmacist?
- What counselling points would you give to a patient on antibiotics?
- Describe a stressful situation and how you dealt with it.
- Tell us about your final year project.
- How would you motivate a team?
- How do you motivate yourself and your supervisor, if you are both given the same task to do?
- What do you see the role of the hospital / community pharmacist as?
• What are the currents issues in pharmacy?
• Are there any issues in the media that are related to pharmacy?
• How would you change the role of the pharmacist?
• Explain your strengths and weakness and how you can make your weakness your strength?
• Tell us about your work experience (whether it is pharmacy or not). What did you learn from this? What skills have you developed from your work experience?
• Why do you think we should employ you?
• When did you see yourself implementing a change? What was that change and how did you implement it?
• When did you ever overcome a barrier? How did you do this and what was the outcome?
• When have you been in a situation of conflict? How did you resolve it? Would you do anything different next time?
• Describe yourself as a person.
• What is competency-based training?
• How do you work with other people to achieve a goal?
• Do you work well on your own or are you a team player?
• Do you think that herbal medicines (complementary therapy) are becoming more important?
• Can you tell me what NICE stands for and what it is?
• What are the current problems in pharmacy? How do you think they can be improved?
• What is your greatest achievement?
• Do you read the Pharmaceutical Journal? (www.pjonline.com)
• Which drug do you give a patient after a heart attack?
• What are the side effects of Ibuprofen?
• A drug is required urgently for a patient. The wrong drug arrives to the ward, what do you do?
• A patient walks into the inpatient dispensary asking for some ibuprofen tablets, what do you do?
• What other drugs, apart from antidiabetics, would you expect to see a diabetic patient taking?
• What do you do to relax? How does this help you?
• If you could improve your pharmacy course, what would you do?
• Can you describe a time where you worked in a team and it was successful?
• What qualities do you think a good pharmacist should possess? Which of these qualities do you have?
• What do you want to achieve from your Pre-Registration year?
• When have you had to build relationships with people you are unfamiliar with? How did you manage to do this? Could you improve on this?
• How would you motivate yourself when you are in a rotation that you do not enjoy at all?
• Give examples of modernisation in the NHS. What are the advantages and disadvantages?
• How would you get other members of the team to pull their weight and fulfil their responsibilities if they are not working as hard as they are meant to?
• What factors do you need to consider when giving medication to a child as opposed to an adult?
• Define competence. What does it mean to you?
• Comment on a recent article, which you read in the pharmaceutical journal.
• What is a foundation hospital and what are diagnostic centres?
• What do you think is the role of the Pre-registration tutor?
• What is your favourite drug? How does it work? What are its main side effects?
• What are your bad points?
• How would you feel if a technician managed you?
• What is the current role of the technician in hospital pharmacy?
• What are the advantages of having technician led dispensaries? Do you think technicians should manage dispensaries?
• What are your views on ward based technicians?
• How do you see technology developing in the NHS in the future?
• Give an example of a time where you have inspired somebody?
• What is the NHS plan?
• What do you know about foundation hospitals?
• What are the advantages and disadvantages of E prescribing?
• What is medicines management?
• How would you advertise your products in a pharmacy?
• What different types of communication can you have with your patients/customers?
• What aspects would you consider if you were opening your own pharmacy?
• Where do you think pharmacy as a profession fits into the healthcare world?
• What is the difference between Salbutamol and Beclomethasone inhalers?
- What skills do you think a community pharmacist should possess? Which of these skills do you have?
- What did you do in your final year project? What went well? What didn't go so well? What did you learn from this?
- What do you think the future holds for pharmacy?
- What would you recommend for glaucoma?
- Would you give emergency contraception (morning after pill) to a 14-year-old girl? (There are no clinics, hospital etc in the area for her to obtain one. You are her only hope).
- Can you give us a situation during your community placement where a customer was very dissatisfied? How did you deal with it? How did you manage to turn the situation around?
- Talk about a situation where you had to try really hard to sell something to a patient
- Can you tell us a situation when you felt you provided good service to a customer?
- How would you increase the sales and business for this company?
- Describe a situation where you have made the customer happy?
- Tell me a time where you have handled a difficult situation well.
- When have you turned around a situation from a customer being very angry to happy?
- What is Paroxetine? When would you advise the patient to take it? What counselling would you give the patient on how to take the medicine? The patient wants to buy some St Johns Wort. Do you sell it?
- What time of day is best to take Enalapril, especially the 1st dose? What are the main side effects?
- Name 3 situations where you would NOT sell EHC (emergency hormonal contraception). Where would you direct these patients?
- You are selling Levonelle to a patient. How would you counsel them?
- Give an example of a situation where you showed business focus in the chemist (or if you haven't any community experience any other real life situation)
- If pharmacy were a blank paper bag, what would you put in it? Which roles would you employ?
- A patient asks for pain relief for toothache, what would you sell and how would you counsel them?
- How would you conduct a training session for junior recruits?
- Why do you want to be in industry?
- Why our drug company in particular?