Pharmacy Specific Interview Questions

Most pharmacies go through a range of standard, or common, interview questions during the interview process however more and more they will inquire as to knowledge and skills gained through education and training specific to the pharmacy field standards.

Here are some common pharmacy questions, as well as tips on how you will want to approach an answer, that you may see during your next interview!

Q: What are the record keeping procedures that a pharmacist have to do?
A: The record keeping procedures that a pharmacist have to do
  - Storing pharmacy files
  - Patient records
  - Inventories and update system files
  - Registries of poisons and controlled drugs

Q: Why do you want to work at a pharmacy as opposed to a healthcare facility?
A: I like face to face customer contact and dispensing medication is something that I enjoy. Working at a pharmacy provides me an opportunity to do both.

Q: What are the factors that need to be considered in drug storage?
A: Storage temperature, light, and sanitary conditions are the three basic factors that need to be considered while storing any drug.

Q: What are the steps to be followed when filling a prescription?
A: The prescription is read and thoroughly understood first. Then the items required are carefully measured and mixed in the prescribed amounts. The prescription is then inspected by a licensed pharmacist before being handed over to the patient.

Q: Which pharmacy related software have you used before?
A: Indicated pharmacy specific software you’ve used either during an internship, virtual lab, etc. Also note that you’re very tech savvy and quickly pick up / adapt to new software

Q: Define prescription medicine.
A: Prescription medicines are those drugs or medicines that cannot be dispensed or sold without the written prescription of a qualified and certified medical practitioner and that too only in limited amounts.

Q: Explain; can a controlled substance prescription be refilled?
A: Controlled substance prescription can be refilled for up to five times in a 6 month span; schedule type V can be refilled as directed by a physician, while type II cannot be refilled.

Q: What are the non-medication related responsibilities of a pharmacy technician?
A: Responsibilities include dispensing drugs, storing medicines, labeling them, stocking them to date and filling relevant inventories.
Q: What do you do to avoid boredom while having to perform repetitive task each day?
A: Medicine mixing and getting percentages right is very important and the repetitive task can go wrong due to boredom; I take short breaks now and then to refresh myself and have a track record of always preparing exact compositions based on the given prescription.

Q: What have you learned from mistakes on the job?
A: Make the mistake small, well intentioned with a positive lesson, for example, would be working too far ahead of colleagues on a project and throwing off coordination.

Q: How do you go storing inventories of drugs?
A: On receiving the stock I study the expiry dates and temperature requirements very carefully and then store the drugs accordingly in appropriate storage sections, placing the ones with lesser remaining expiry period in the front of the shelves.

Q: Outline the steps you follow when you receive a prescription order.
A: On receiving a prescription I determine the components required and their quantities. I then measure these out and create the mixture while paying a lot of attention to detail. I also check for any special medicinal requirements mentioned by the prescribing doctor and ascertain the expiry date of each component I add. The prescription is then checked and verified by the senior pharmacist for component accuracy and given out to the customer.

Be sure to practice your interview skills before you have to use them.

Additionally, brush up on you those “Common Interview Questions” as many pharmacies will incorporate them into their interview process!

Login to Optimal Resume the Interview feature to continue to work on your pharmacy interview skills!