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Exploring Non Traditional Path In Pharmacy

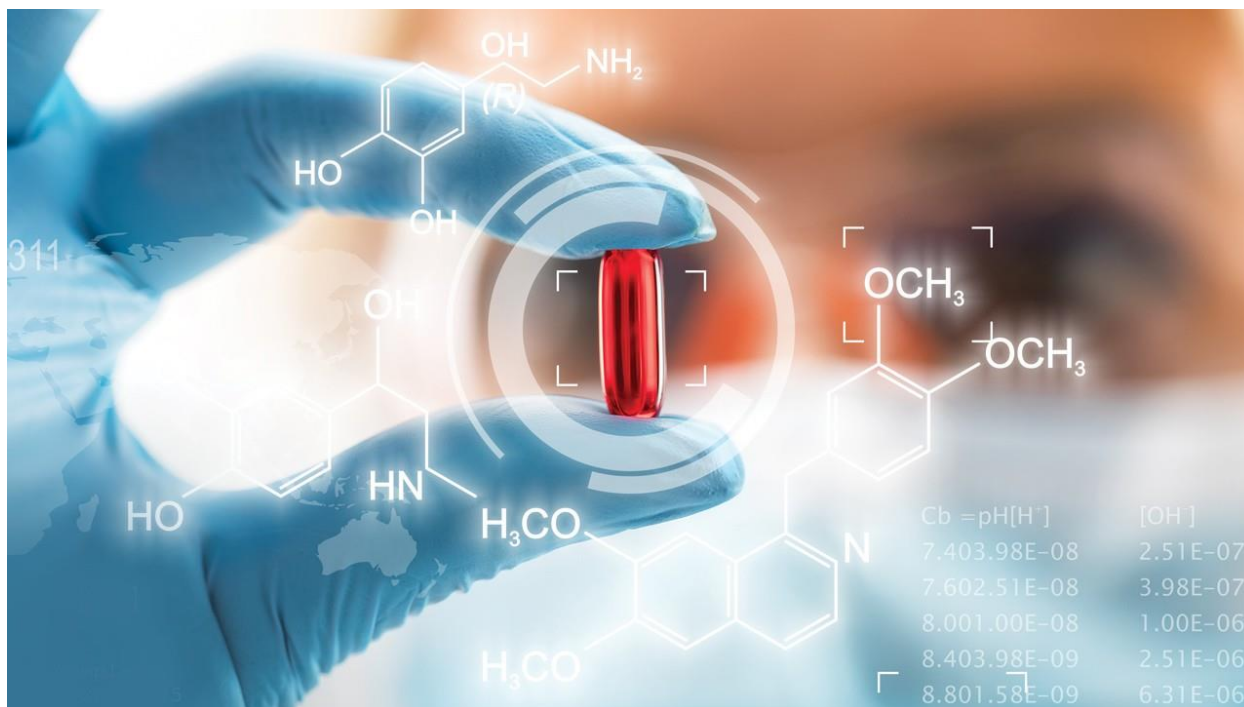
INTRODUCTION

Pharmacists have evolved from being seen as mere pill counters to becoming trusted advocates and integral members of the healthcare team. They now contribute significantly to patient care, participate in medical rounds, promote medication adherence, and advocate for payment models through legislation. ***The changing landscape of healthcare, cost reduction efforts, and the importance of responsible medication use present pharmacists with opportunities to transform their practice.*** By seeking non-traditional roles, pharmacists can become frontline leaders in drug therapy management, addressing issues such as rising drug prices, biosimilar, the opioid crisis, supply chain security, and changes in pharmacy laws. Pharmacy directors should explore innovative roles that uniquely qualified pharmacists can fill. This article aims to provide options for non-traditional career paths and highlight their impact on patient care services. Some examples include expanded consulting roles, pharmacogenomics patient consult services and clinics, specialty drug pharmacies, space pharmacy, nuclear pharmacy, toxicology, and veterinary pharmacy.

Non-traditional opportunities

Non-traditional roles in healthcare and pharmacy practice directly impact patient care by assisting with drug therapy, including selection, adherence, and managing side effects. These roles prioritize direct patient care and clinical efficiency for effective and efficient patient care.

1. Precision Medicine Pharmacogenomics Pharmacist



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Precision medicine aims to personalize medical treatment based on an individual's genetic makeup. By moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach, it can improve clinical outcomes, reduce costs, and enhance patient safety. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) recognizes the pharmacist's crucial role in applying pharmacogenomics, advocating for their involvement in establishing pharmacogenomics clinics, developing informatics platforms, and designing tailored drug therapy regimens based on genetic testing results promote safe and cost-effective medication practices.

2. Pharmacists with Expertise on Specialty Medicine



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Establishing a specialty pharmacy program offers numerous benefits for patients and healthcare organizations. It improves medication access, enhances continuity of care, and boosts patient safety and health outcomes. Streamlining processes with centralized prior authorization and 24/7 call centres improves efficiency and patient satisfaction. Standardizing pharmacy documents within the EMR promotes seamless communication and collaboration among care teams. ***The success of such a program is evident in the case of UUHC (name of the organization). They experienced a remarkable 137% increase in specialty pharmacy revenue in just two years after implementing their specialty pharmacy program. Within nine months, they enrolled approximately 700 new patients, highlighting the increased demand and accessibility provided by the program.*** Dedicated pharmacists provide crucial support, education, and follow-ups for patients. Overall, such programs lead to revenue growth, expanded services, and accreditation for specialty pharmacies. [\[PubMed\]](#) [\[Google Scholar\]](#) [\[Ref list\]](#).

3. Entrepreneurs



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Pharmacists with a degree have entrepreneurial opportunities in consulting, wellness coaching, MTM services, writing, speaking, and telemedicine. They can offer MTM services and medication therapy management over the phone for insurance companies and accountable care organizations.

Skills: critical thinking, leaderships, risk- taking, problem solving, networking, and communication.

Qualification: Bachelors or Masters Pharmacy

Salary: average pay scale 2 to 3 lakh per annum.

4. Medication Therapy Management



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MTM, or Medication Therapy Management, is a growing field for pharmacists. It involves reviewing patients' medications and helping with their overall health management. Services include medication reviews, consultations, therapy adjustments, and clinical services like anticoagulation management and immunizations.

Skills: Medication therapy review, A personal medication record, A medication action plan, Intervention and referral, Documentation and training of follow-up.

Salary: up to 12 lakhs average pay scale.

5. Informatics Pharmacist



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An informatics pharmacist is a specialized pharmacist who uses technology to improve drug services in healthcare. They focus on storing and maintaining health-related information effectively, working with healthcare and IT professionals enhance efficiency. Career options include pharmacy informatics analyst, drug safety specialist, and informatics pharmacist.

Qualification: Bachelors and masters of Pharmacy and knowledge of IT field.

Salary: up to 7 lakhs average pay scale.

6. Space Age Pharmacy



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Pharmacists working at organizations like ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) have unique roles in preparing medication for space missions. They collaborate with scientists to understand how medications function in space and provide recommendations for astronauts. However, they face specific challenges in this environment, such as ensuring medication quantities are within spacecraft limits and determining the most effective drug administration methods in space.

Age limit: Age limit 18-45

Education: Degree/ Diploma in Pharmacist

Selection Process: Physical interview and competitive written test.

Salary: average pay scale 44900-142400 per month average pay scale.

7. Nuclear pharmacy



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Nuclear pharmacy is a specialized field of pharmacy that focuses on preparing radioactive materials for medical use. Its goal is to safely and effectively use radioactive drugs for diagnostic purposes. To become a nuclear pharmacist, you need to undergo training in radiation physics, instrumentation, protection, biology, and math related to radioactivity decay and radiopharmaceutical chemistry. Practical training in a nuclear pharmacy is also necessary.

Age limit: 35 to 40 years

Education: Authorized Nuclear Pharmacist (ANP) Training is required. To operate under a pharmacy's RAM license, one must complete 500 hours of practical experience in addition to 200 hours of classroom instruction.

Salary: average pay scale INR 9,67,758 and INR 1,796,651 on average.

8. Poison Control



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Pharmacists can work as toxicology consultants, helping people who have taken harmful medications or been exposed to toxic substances. They also provide drug information to organizations like police, schools, and healthcare providers. Some toxicology pharmacists work in forensic toxicology at places like the FDA, CDC, FBI, and NIH. Others specialize in emergency medicine, critical care, or paediatrics in hospitals.

Education: bachelors in science and relevant field then masters in toxicology.

Salary: average pay scale ₹ 2.2 Lakhs to ₹ 6 Lakhs per year.

9. Veterinary Pharmacies



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A veterinary pharmacist is a specialized pharmacist who works with medications for animals. They provide drugs and advice for pets and livestock. Veterinary pharmacists dispense medications, offer guidance to animal owners, and help develop veterinary drugs. They understand the unique differences in animal anatomy and physiology to ensure safe and appropriate medication use for animals.

Education: Diploma in veterinary

Salary: average pay scale up to 2.2 lakh per year.

Conclusion

Health-system pharmacy leaders face exciting and challenging times in healthcare. They must identify trends and leverage pharmacists' skills as medication experts. Innovation and embracing non-traditional opportunities, such as medication therapy management and collaborative drug therapy management, can enhance patient care. Pharmacists play a vital role in optimizing therapy, improving outcomes, reducing costs, and enhancing satisfaction. By implementing innovative practices, leaders contribute to the advancement of the pharmacy profession and better patient care.

Reference

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