

# Dose of Knowledge



## CAREER PROFILE

## Specialized Pharmacy Career Pathways

Many people think only one job type is available for those who choose a pharmacy career. However, there are diverse opportunities within the field that include patient care, scientific research, and innovation. Pursuing a career as a pharmacist has many rewarding options beyond working in a local community to dispense medication and provide healthcare advice.

While this role as a community pharmacist is often what comes to mind, it is not the only opportunity within the field. There are multiple pathways that provide specialized options for pharmacists to grow and expand their career. Below are some of the countless options available within this impactful career pathway.

### Managed Care Pharmacist

- **What do they do? Managed care pharmacists** work with other healthcare professionals to provide a range of services that ensure that patients—individuals served by a health plan—receive appropriate medication therapies conveniently and cost-effectively. Pharmacists must possess both clinical skills and the ability to evaluate scientific evidence and apply these principles to patient care.<sup>1</sup>
- **What are the skills needed to be a successful managed care pharmacist?**
  - Exceptional communication and clinical skills
  - Strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills
  - Excellent organizational and research skills
- **How do I become a managed care pharmacist?**
  - Bachelor's degree required; PharmD degree preferred. Licensed to practice pharmacy required.
  - Five years of experience providing pharmaceutical care services.

### Specialty Mail Service Pharmacist

- **What do they do? Specialty mail service pharmacists** focus on high-cost, high-touch medication therapy for patients with complex disease states, such as cancer or autoimmune diseases, which are treated with biologic medications. They play a key role in ensuring the accurate delivery of pharmaceutical care services, including drug therapy monitoring, patient education, drug information, and chronic disease state management for clinical programs.
- **What are the skills needed to be a successful specialty mail service pharmacist?**
  - Strong communication and written skills
  - Excellent analytical and organizational skills
  - Self-driven and motivated to excel

<sup>1</sup> [Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy](#)

- **How do I become a specialty mail service pharmacist?**

- Specialty mail service pharmacists should have broad knowledge and work experience with computerized pharmacy information and dispensing systems.
- Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) or Bachelor's of Science (BS Pharm) degree from an ACPE-accredited pharmacy school with prior experience managing large teams.

## Long-Term Care Pharmacist

- **What do they do? Long-term care pharmacists** provide additional experienced support to those in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living communities, and chronic care settings. These professionals provide accurate delivery of pharmaceutical care to patients throughout the full continuum of their long-term stay, so that medications reach the patient efficiently and safely.
- **What are the skills needed to be a successful long-term care pharmacist?**
  - Strong analytical and critical thinking skills
  - Superior customer service skills
  - Strong attention to details
  - Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- **How do I become a long-term care pharmacist?**
  - Long-term care pharmacists should have prior clinical experience in long-term care and a pharmacist license.
  - Obtain a pharmacy license from a state-licensing board.

## Home Infusion Pharmacist

- **What do they do?** Pharmacists who become **home infusion pharmacists** utilize specialized and complex therapies, involving cutting-edge technology. Infused or injected medications are among the most complicated and are distinct because they often require healthcare professional administration by clinicians with disease and product expertise. By partnering with clinical pharmacists and nursing teams, these professionals provide the clinical skills and infusion knowledge to provide specialty infusion services, which are administered to patients in their homes.
- **What are the skills needed to be a successful home infusion pharmacist?**
  - Good interactive communication skills
  - Precision analytic and quantitative skills
  - Attention to detail and follow through
- **How do I become a home infusion pharmacist?**
  - Home infusion pharmacists must obtain a pharmacist license from a state licensing board
  - Three years of clinical experience
  - Minimum of one year experience with infusion therapy and sterile compounding