

PHARMACIST



WHAT THEY DO

Pharmacists help patients manage their medications. Traditionally, the role of the pharmacist has been to prepare and distribute prescription medication and counsel patients on how to safely and effectively use their medications. In recent years, pharmacist regulation, standards, and scope of practice have changed, and pharmacists can now offer more services.

Pharmacists often review patient prescriptions and drug information to look for warnings and potential interactions with other medications or treatments. They can adapt a prescription and prescribe drugs in an emergency. In some cases, they may be allowed to independently prescribe drugs. They counsel patients and their families on disease prevention (e.g., smoking cessation), provide vaccinations, and order lab tests.

HOW THEY WORK

Pharmacists can work in different environments, including hospitals, community health offices, cancer care centres, ambulatory clinics, and home care. Pharmacists also offer medication information and counselling to other health care professionals and work closely with a patient's health care team to ensure the best care. They can supervise and direct the work of other pharmacy staff, including pharmacy technicians and assistants.

TRAINING

To become a Pharmacist, you must complete a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree. The University of Alberta is the only Alberta-based Pharmacist training program. Pharmacists are regulated by the Alberta College of Pharmacy.

Pharmacists in Alberta (CIHC 2019 Fact Sheet)	
PROPORTION OF INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED	30.5%
PROPORTION OF:	
FEMALES	60.1%
MALES	39.9%
SUPPLY	5,562
% CHANGE SINCE 2018	+2.8
RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION	129.1
WORKING IN:	
URBAN SETTINGS	87.6%
RURAL/REMOTE SETTINGS	11.8%
NOT STATED	0.6%
EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS	
HOSPITAL	21.3
COMMUNITY HEALTH	74.0
NURSING HOME/LTC	-
OTHER	4.7%

VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Flx2k5NSNoE>

RESOURCES

REGULATORY BODY:

Alberta College of Pharmacy <https://abpharmacy.ca/>

ALBERTA ALIS PROFILE:

<https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta/occupation-profiles/pharmacist/>

AHS CAREER PROFILE:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/careers/Page11743.aspx>