



Pharmacy assistant

What is a Pharmacy Assistant/Technician?

A Pharmacy Assistant or Technician supports the pharmacist in the delivery of pharmaceutical services. Usually people working as pharmacy assistants will have some prior experience in community pharmacy before working in hospital pharmacy though this is not always necessary.

Pharmacy assistants will have completed or be working towards a Certificate III in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support. Typical tasks completed by pharmacy assistants include dispensing of prescriptions, supplying stock to wards and other inventory tasks. Pharmacy technicians will have completed the Certificate IV in Hospital Health Services Pharmacy Support and usually complete more complex tasks than those of a pharmacy assistant. This includes compounding (making the required medicines in a controlled environment), stock management, assisting in clinical trials and also leadership and management roles.

The role of the pharmacy assistant/technician is a rapidly evolving one and continues to expand into different areas. No prior qualifications are necessary to become a pharmacy assistant – you can start straight out of high school in community pharmacy and then transition into hospital pharmacy!

TAFE and other colleges deliver the following pharmacy courses –

HLT37115 Certificate III in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support

HLT47115 Certificate IV in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support