

Pre-Pharmacy Lecture Series  
Tim Drake (Out patient) / Mark Harper (In patient)  
McKay Dee Hospital  
11-16-05

Attendance: 10

I. Tim Drake (Out patient) LTD pharmacy

A. Duties:

1. Determine most cost effective drug prescription. Cancel unnecessary medications patient currently takes.
2. Personal consultations. Tim mentioned the one-on-one counseling he is able to do with patients is his favorite part of the job. He enjoys developing on going relationships with patients.
3. Perform clinical assistance. Includes checking regulating blood pressure, cholesterol screening, and testing for diabetes. For individuals with a specific disease, he ensures all of the necessary tests are up to date. Since he has rapid access to physicians records, he can determine if patients have been prescribed correct medications in the right dosages. Most all drugs need monitoring, but few actually are monitored. Currently a big push for medication safety. Most clinical pharmacy jobs require residencies.
4. Working with insurance and setting up medicaid are the least desirable part of the job.
5. Tim works Monday through Friday and has weekends / holidays off.

II. Mark Harper (In patient)

A. Duties

1. Does not fill prescriptions.
2. Is part of a medical team in consulting with physicians and surgeons. After a physician recommends a specific drug treatment, Mark takes care of all of the details in preparation and duration of dosage. Also he has a say in treatment selection. Ensures accuracy of physicians prescriptions.
3. Since automation is used in measuring out medication, he is able to focus his time on patient care. Spends a lot of time monitoring the effects of medication both positive and negative.

4. Specializes in critical care and operating room.

III. General information:

- A. In the past few years there have been great advances in drug administration. In treating a certain illness, patients can take fewer and simpler doses of medication.
- B. Since pharmacists contribute to treatment decisions, it is a good idea to have malpractice insurance. If mistakes are made, pharmacists generally are at least partially liable. (Shared liability)
- C. It is common for pharmacy students to be hired on at the places where they perform internships. Currently there is a real demand for retail pharmacists. Specialty pharmacy jobs (such as at a cardiac clinic) are a little more difficult to land.
- D. It is more difficult for a pharmacist to go from retail to clinical setting, then to go from clinical to retail.
- E. Burn out rate for retail pharmacists is high.
- F. Around your second year of pharmacy school, beware of financial offers or offers to have your tuition paid in return for employment commitments. By doing so you limit your choices of potential residencies.
- G. Generally internships are paid and externships are not. However, significant growth and experience comes from externships.
- H. During a residency, you are paid about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a pharmacist's normal salary. They last about a year and are intense (50-60 hrs / week and several presentations), but count for about 5 years of experience.