

Discussion Question

Week 1 DQ 1

Due Week 1 Day 2 (Tuesday, September 20)

What skills do you already possess that you can apply as a pharmacy technician? What additional skills do you need to master to become a pharmacy technician? Explain your answers.

Remember to post your response as a reply to this thread. Your response should be at least 150 words. Proofread carefully. Grammar and spelling errors do not convey a professional message.

The skills that I already possess that can be applied as a pharmacy technician are the hands on experience that I have learned from being a pharmacy technician already. I have learned alot of useful skills and tricks of the trade from my on the job training. However, the are many things that I know now that I can only learn by either repetition or schooling. One thing that I know that I need improvement on is my ability to convert between the metric and the standard system. I know the answer when I see the answer, but I just cannot seem to memorize it yet. I also want to improve my skills in knowing what each medication treats. This will really help me out when a customer calls and says that he/she needs to fill their gout medicine and do not know the name of the medicine. This way I might be able to look at their profile and single out the drug without having to ask the pharmacist to help. Other skills I may need to master to become a better pharmacy technician would be issues with insurance companies. There are thousands of reasons as to why a certain prescription goes into rejection, and in order to get that script to be approved there are steps that need to be done in. This can only come with experience and can be sometimes frustrating when unable to fix the rejection. I believe that this is a really important skill to master, especially if one plans on working in a retail setting.

Response 2

The skills that I already have, that will help me to become a pharmacy technician, are great customer service skills, attention to detail, and spelling. I have had 15 plus years dealing with customers in restaurant, banquet services, and bank settings, which I believe to be the best environments to learn about the different people and attitudes they can possess. I never take anything personal, and try to "kill 'em" with kindness. My math skills are good, although I do need to brush up on how to convert metric to standard and roman numerals to Arabic, and percentages. I also need to memorize more drug names, their generic names, what they are used for, and what dosage forms they come in. I would like to know more about compounding medicines as well, not only to further my knowledge, but to also give myself a wider field of pharmacy in which to work.

Discussion Question

Week 1 DQ 2

Due Week 1 Day 4 (Thursday, September 22)

How important are math skills for pharmacy technicians? How can you apply the relationship of percents and ratios to everyday living situations? Provide an example.

Remember to post your response as a reply to this thread. Your response should be at least 150 words. Proofread carefully. Points will be deducted for grammar and spelling errors.

In any medical or medicine profession, it is important to understand the basic fundamentals of math. The concepts are used in measuring time, dose, and duration as well as compounding. Mathematics are also used when calculating payment, insurance/patient balance ratios, and counting medications. I am not lucky enough to have any real-life pharmacy experience so the actual hands-on duties that I will encounter that require math are only assumed by what I have learned so far through my studies.

Everyday activities that I encounter that require ratios and percentages are food preparation measuring, household cleaner solution preparations, balancing a family budget, financial decisions such as loan payment options, gas mileage in our vehicle, and most importantly, the amount of television/video games my son is allowed to watch/play each day. 😊

In all of these activities, I must measure amounts that have direct ratios to make sure recipes or solutions turn out and percentage of money that is put toward each expense and how much the family can afford each month as a loan payment. We use math everyday and many might not even realize they are doing it!

Response 2

Knowing the basics of math is important in the pharmacy and medical field. A person in any of these fields will use math fundamentals for measuring, compounding, and counting medications, and supplies. Calculating expenses, such as what a patient should pay and what their insurance pays, what a pharmacy can afford in supplies, med's, et cetera, and calculating payroll, tills at the end of the day, and preparing deposits and orders for money pick-ups needed for till back-up and petty cash. One in these fields will also need to know how to convert roman numerals to Arabic, and how to estimate percentages and ratios when combining medications.

In everyday life I use percentages and ratios to determine, for examples, how much gas I can get for \$20 dollars, how many cans of chili beans do I need to make my awesome chili that will produce enough for a family of five, with other ingredients, and allow me to freeze some for later. I also use these skills to determine what extras I can afford to buy and still be able to pay the necessary monthly bills.