

A Conversation with a Consultant Pharmacist





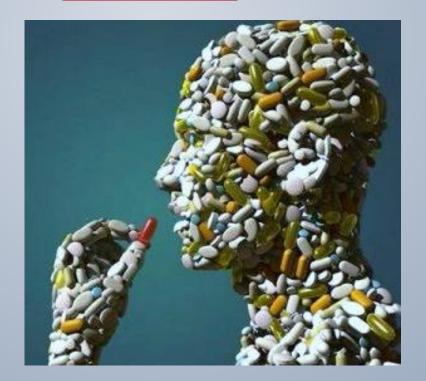


The Consultant Pharmacist strives to be a patient care advocate.

He or She is a pharmacist who is paid to provide expert advice on the use of medications or provisions of pharmacy services to patients, prescribers, nurses and institutions.



This could be therapy recommendations or even a review of a patient prescriptions looking for polypharmacy or <u>mistakes</u>.





In the Nursing Home setting we assist in patients' rights with reviews of each patient's medication for regulatory compliance along with proper indication, dose, duration, and monitoring for the presence of adverse consequences.



Where do we perform these services? Normally you would think nursing homes. However, there are other opportunities.

These could be ambulatory surgical centers, assisted living communities, correctional institutions, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled, senior centers and subacute care



One major benefit of consulting is scheduling and working at your own pace.

You have a number of sites or facilities you need to review within a 30 day period.

When you arrive at your destination you work at your own pace and when finished you leave.



There are minimal phone interruptions and don't see an impatient customer insisting on your attention. Normally no weekends or nights.



What are some of the issues with consulting?

- 1. The hardest part is getting started.
- 2. A special license is required in Arkansas and is provided after a successful exam from the Board of Pharmacy.
- 3. Most consulting positions come up quickly and are filled just as fast.
- 4. Many positions do require an occasional overnight stay with facilities that require more than one day to service.



How would I get started in consulting?

- 1. You should always check with the major nursing home pharmacy providers.
- 2. They will have a firsthand knowledge of employment opportunities and in many cases can provide a consulting opportunity.
- 3. They can provide basic training and shadowing with an experienced consultant.



There are times as a consultant pharmacist your are limited only by your imagination...



Thank You