

Career Pathways

Welcome to your career journey

These career pathways are for use if you are considering a career in the NHS or you are existing staff considering career development.

Everybody's journey is different due to the different entry points, qualifications and experience they hold.

[CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT ROLES IN PHARMACY](#)

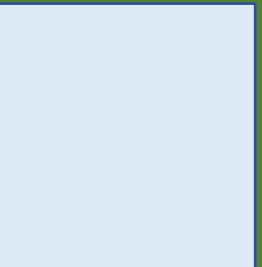
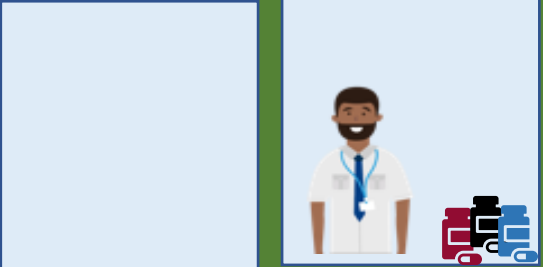
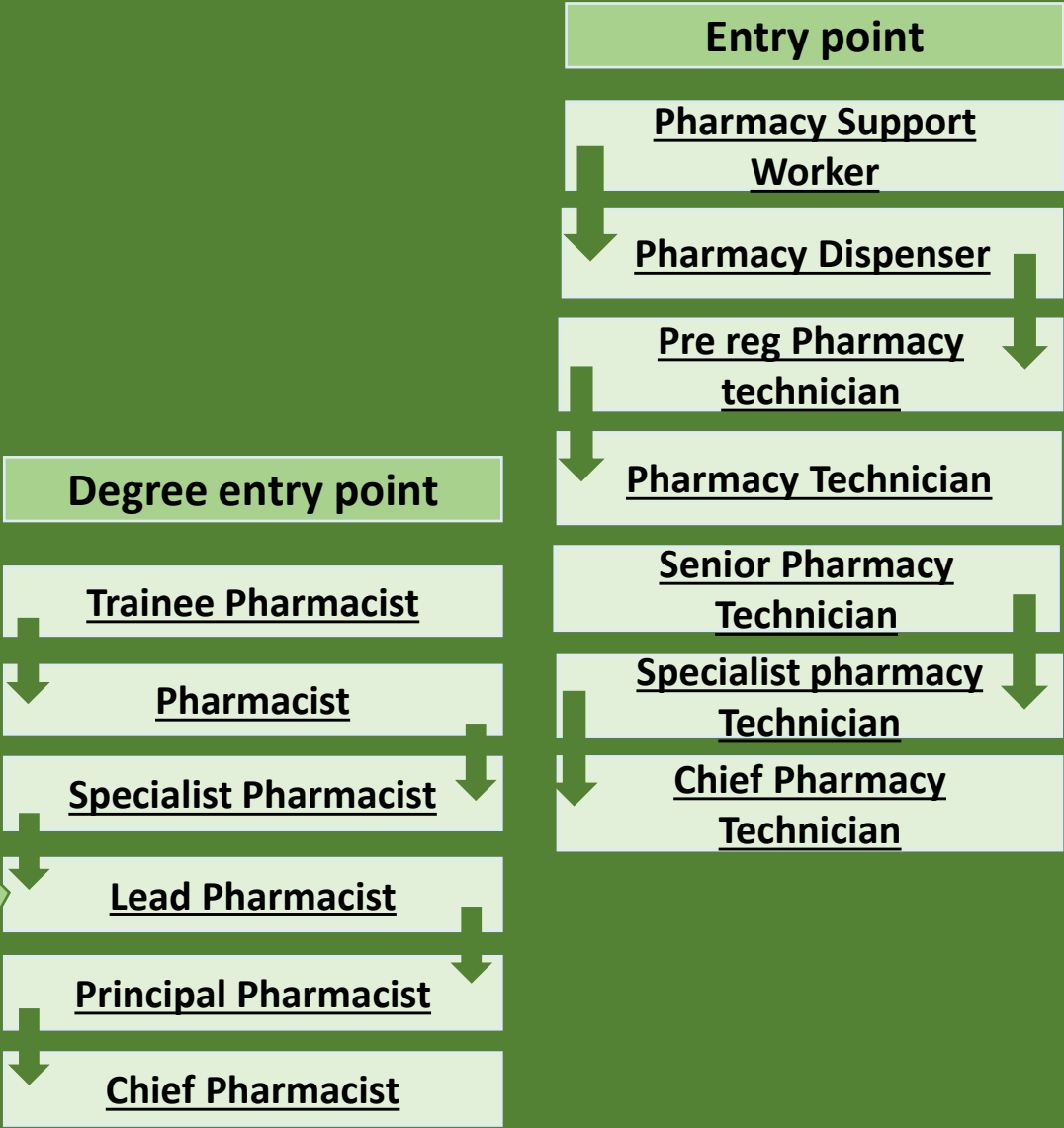
The Pharmacy team play a vital part in patient care and recovery as well as public health, by using their expert knowledge of medicines and their uses.

They work with colleagues in the wider healthcare team such as doctors, nurses and allied health professionals and in a range of settings within hospitals and in the community.



To read about
each role in more
detail click on
the job title

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Pharmacy Support Worker

The Role:

Pharmacy Support Workers work as part of the pharmacy team under the direction of a registered technician. They are members of the pharmacy team who manage and prepare the supply of medicines

The work includes:

- Pharmacy receptionist / dispensing medication for inpatients
- Delivering urgent / critical medicines to other parts of a hospital
- Carrying out ward top ups and expiry date checking

Entry requirements:

Good literacy, numeracy, and IT skills.

Training opportunities:

Level 2 Principles and practice for pharmacy support staff

Career pathway:

Pharmacy Dispenser

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Pharmacy Dispenser

The Role:

Pharmacy Dispensers work as part of the pharmacy team under the direction of a registered technician. They are members of the pharmacy team who manage and prepare the supply of medicines

The work includes:

- Dispensing medication for inpatients and discharge
- Working as part of the pharmacy ward team carrying out ward top ups

Entry requirements:

Good literacy, numeracy, and IT skills and level 2 principles and practice for pharmacy support staff

Training opportunities:

Level 3 - Diploma in Principles & Practice for Pharmacy Technicians

Career pathway:

Pre-Reg Pharmacy Technician

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Pre-Registration Pharmacy Technician

The Role:

To train as a Pharmacy Technician as members of the pharmacy team who manage and prepare the supply of medicines and give advice to patients

Entry requirements:

You will need 4 GCSE or equivalent at A*-C/9-4 including maths, English, science and & other science subject to undertake the level 3 Pharmacy Technician (Integrated) apprenticeship.

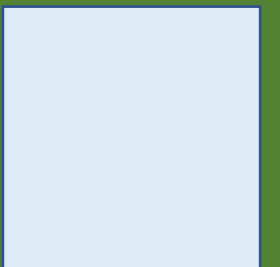
Training opportunities:

- Level 3 Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship (2 year course)
- Registration with GPhC

Career pathway:

- Pharmacy technician, accredited checking pharmacy technician

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Pharmacy Technician

The Role:

Pharmacy Technicians are members of the pharmacy team who manage and prepare the supply of medicines and give advice to patients

Entry requirements:

You will need to be a registered pharmacy technician following completion of level 3 Pharmacy Technician (Integrated) apprenticeship.

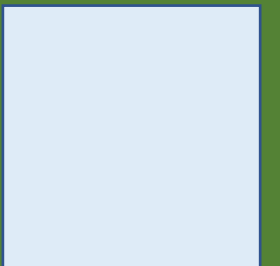
Training opportunities:

- Accredited checking pharmacy Technician
- Regular continual professional development (CPD) to maintain registration with GPhC

Career pathway:

- Senior pharmacy technician, responsible for specific clinical areas.

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Senior Pharmacy Technician

The Role:

As a Senior Pharmacy Technician you are responsible for a specific clinical area.

Entry requirements:

Experience as a Pharmacy Technician within all areas of the department

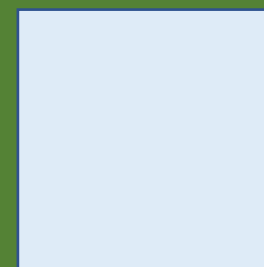
Training opportunities:

- Level 3 Accredited checking pharmacy Technician (ACPT)
- Level 4 BTEC Diploma in Pharmacy Clinical Services Professionals
- Medication reconciliation training

Career pathway:

- Management and leadership roles
- Further specialise, in areas such as mental health oncology (cancer treatment) or paediatrics
- Work in Aseptic, Pharmacy Procurement, Clinical Trials or Discharge to Access

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Specialist Pharmacy Technician

The Role:

As a Specialist Pharmacy Technician you will support the Pharmacy Support Workers and Pharmacy Technicians in your team. This includes line management of people within your specialist area.

The role may include providing ward based work, education and training, dispensary, aseptic or procurement

Entry requirements:

Experience as a Senior Pharmacy Technician

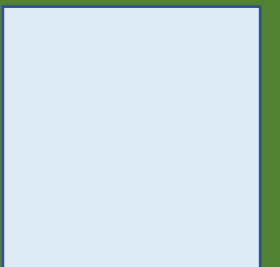
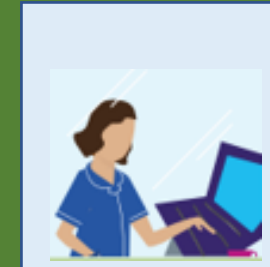
Training opportunities:

- Management qualification such as Level 5 Operations Department Manager

Career pathway:

- Management and leadership roles

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Chief Pharmacy Technician

The Role:

As a Chief Pharmacy Technician you support all the pharmacy technicians in your team liaising closely with other senior members of the Pharmacy team

Entry requirements:

Experience as a Specialist Pharmacy Technician within all areas of the department

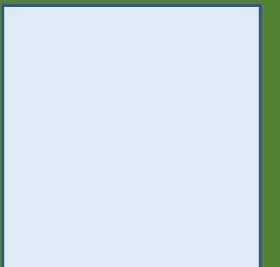
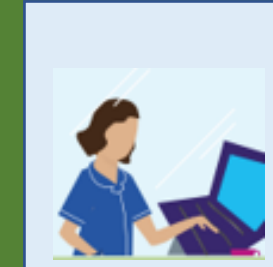
Training opportunities:

- Management qualifications

Career pathway:

- Management and leadership roles

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Trainee Pharmacist

The Role:

A pharmacist is an expert in medicines and their use. Their knowledge of medicines and the effect they have on the human body is critical for the successful management of every type of medical condition.

Following academic training this is a paid work placement called a Foundation training year

Entry requirements:

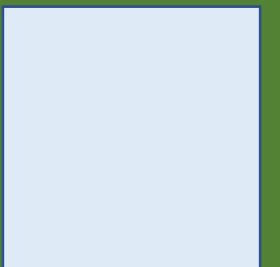
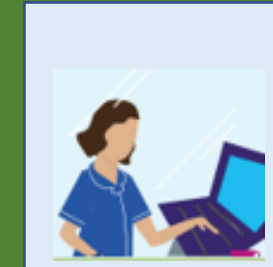
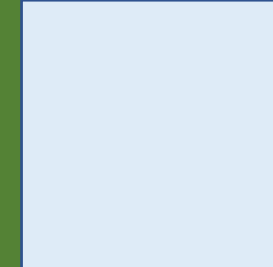
- You need to complete a 4 year programme of academic of Master's degree in pharmacy (MPharm),

Training opportunities:

- Regular continual professional development (CPD) to keep up to date, this may include in-house training, or regionally or nationally organised courses.

Career pathway:

- Qualified pharmacist with rotations through specialities
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The Role:

A pharmacist is an expert in medicines and their use. Their knowledge of medicines and the effect they have on the human body is critical for the successful management of every type of medical condition.

Entry requirements:

- Master's degree in pharmacy (MPharm), followed by a one year paid work placement called a foundation training year (Trainee Pharmacist role)

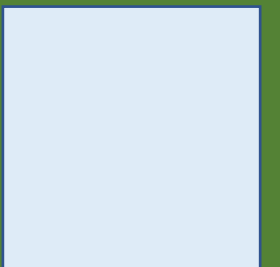
Training opportunities:

- Regular continual professional development (CPD) to keep up to date to maintain pharmacist registration
- Range of training, to support you in your chosen career path. Training opportunities may include in-house training, or regionally or nationally organised courses.
- Clinical Diploma

Career pathway:

- Rotational post through Medicine, Surgery, Trauma & Orthopaedics, Acute Medicine, Antibiotics and Care of the Elderly
- Fixed posts include Clinical Trials, Stroke and Acute Medicine

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Specialist Pharmacist

The Role:

A specialist pharmacist is an expert in a specific area such as Antibiotics, Medicine, Surgery, Trauma & Orthopaedics.

Entry requirements:

- Experience in pharmacist role
- Post grad diploma

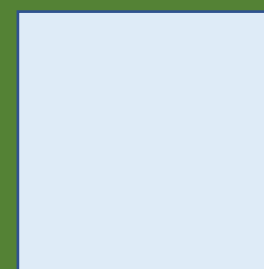
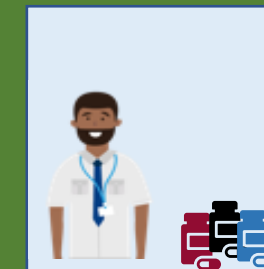
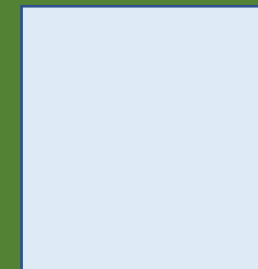
Training opportunities:

- Yearly rotation to other specialist areas
- Non-medical prescribing
- Relevant training for area of speciality
- Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) apprenticeship

Career pathway:

- Management and leadership roles
- Lead Pharmacist

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Lead Pharmacist

The Role:

As a Lead Pharmacist, you will have expertise in in a specialised area and you will be responsible for leading a pharmacy team in that area.

You will oversee the work & carry out direct line management of the team.

You will be responsible for multi-disciplinary & collaborative working across multiple disciplines.

Entry requirements:

- Significant specialist pharmacist experience
- Speciality experience

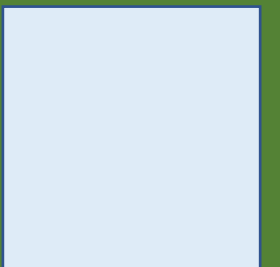
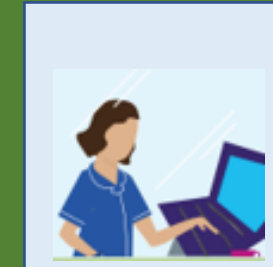
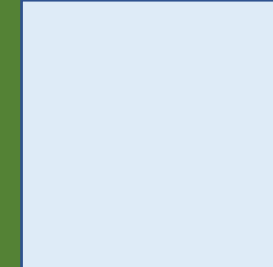
Training opportunities:

- MSC in pharmacy practice or equivalent
- Prescribing qualification
- Senior Leader level 7 apprenticeship

Career pathway:

- Senior management and leadership roles

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Principle Pharmacist

The Role:

As a Principle Pharmacist you will deputise for the Chief Pharmacist. You will be working closely with the senior pharmacy management team.

You will be responsible for providing support, development, and implementation of medicine optimisation. This role is also responsible for the overall management of the Pharmacist team

Entry requirements:

- Significant pharmacist experience
- Speciality experience
- Operational management experience

Training opportunities:

- Regular continual professional development (CPD) to keep up to date
- Range of training and development to support your chosen career path

Career pathway:

- Senior management and leadership roles

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Chief Pharmacist

The Role:

As the Chief Pharmacist you will lead the pharmacy team & be responsible for the medicines budget while reporting to the Medical Director and Executive Board.

You will be responsible for delivering national targets and NHS guidance ensuring they are implemented locally.

You will be responsible for the implementation of relevant legislation and regulations the Trust.

Entry requirements:

- Significant pharmacist experience
- Speciality experience
- Operational management experience

Training opportunities:

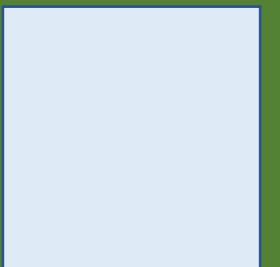
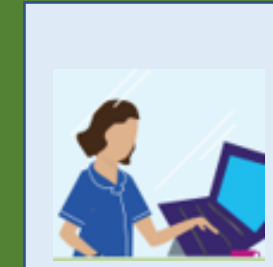
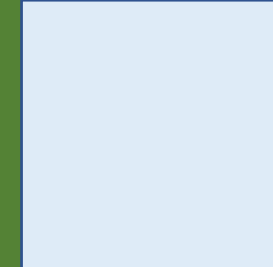
Regular continual professional development (CPD) to keep up to date.

Range of training, to support you in your chosen career path.

Career pathway:

- Executive management and leadership roles

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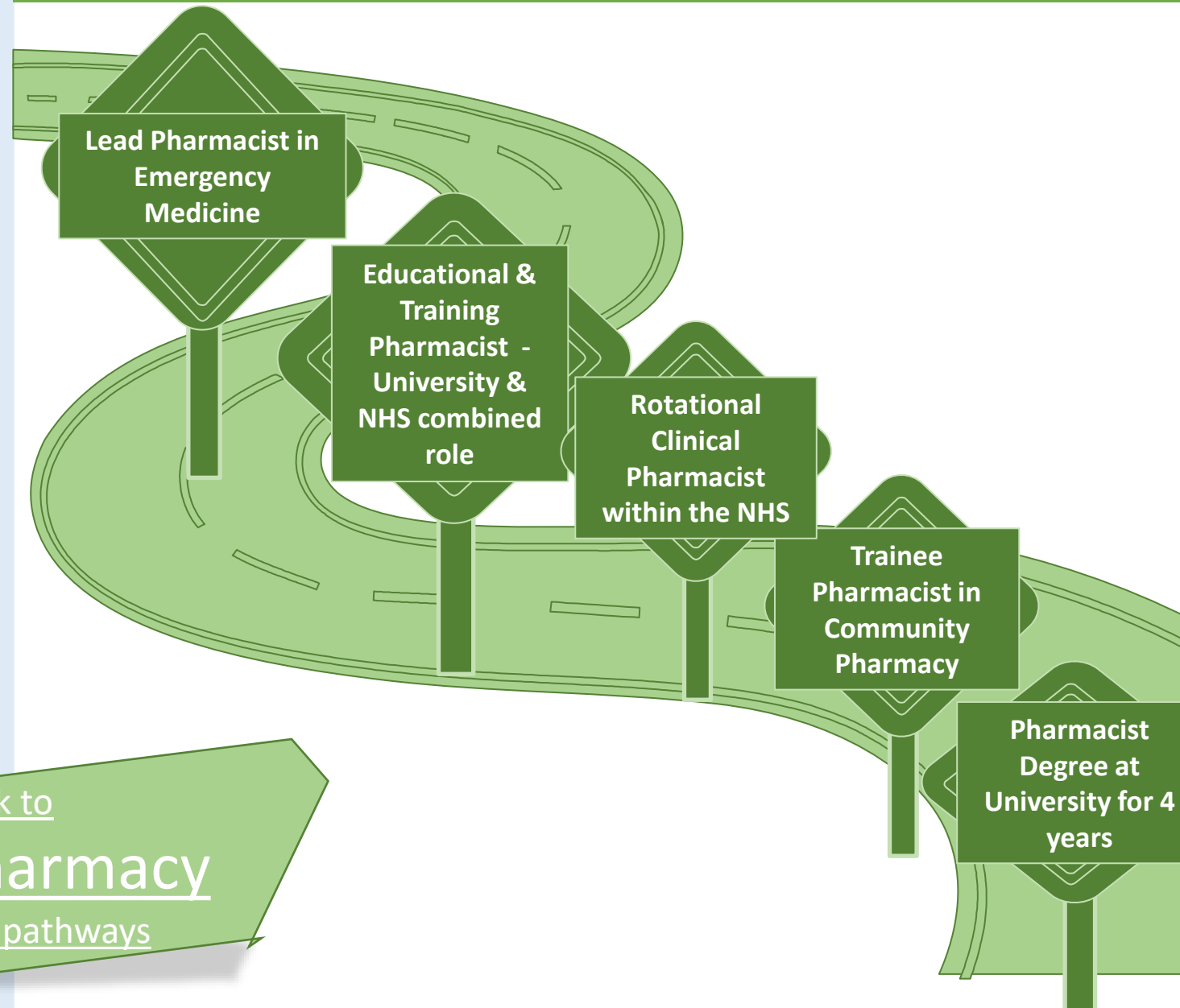


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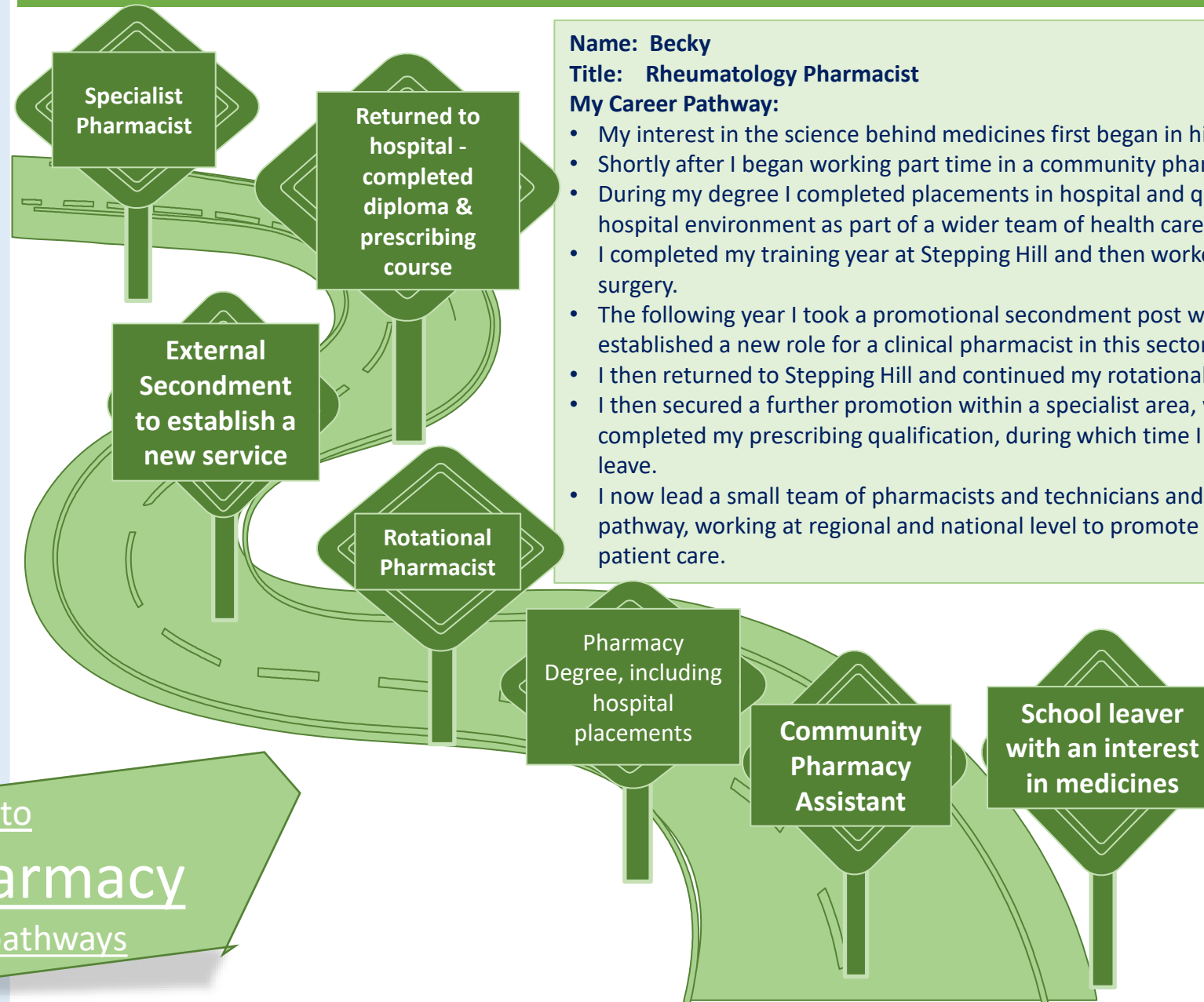
Phillipa's Career Pathway – Lead Pharmacist Emergency Medicine



Name	Phillipa
Title	Lead Pharmacist – Emergency Medicine
My Career Pathway	
• After 4 years at university, I started my pharmacist career working as a trainee pharmacist in a local community pharmacy. • After 2 years working in the community, I transitioned to work in a NHS hospital as a rotational clinical pharmacist. • After years of working within the NHS, I developed a liking for tutoring so became the educational and training pharmacist, supporting all staff working at the Trust. I used this experience to work part time with a university, teaching clinical pharmacy to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. • I subsequently wanted a new challenge to develop my clinical skills so transitioned to working as lead pharmacist for the Emergency Department. • Throughout my career, I have gained few accolades including a clinical diploma and a prescribing qualification. • I am working towards becoming a Consultant pharmacist specialising in emergency medicine so persistently developing my leadership and research skills. I genuinely believe pharmacists have a bright future ahead, widening their skillset and treating patients in new niche ways	

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Becky's Career Pathway – Rheumatology Pharmacist



Name: Becky

Title: Rheumatology Pharmacist

My Career Pathway:

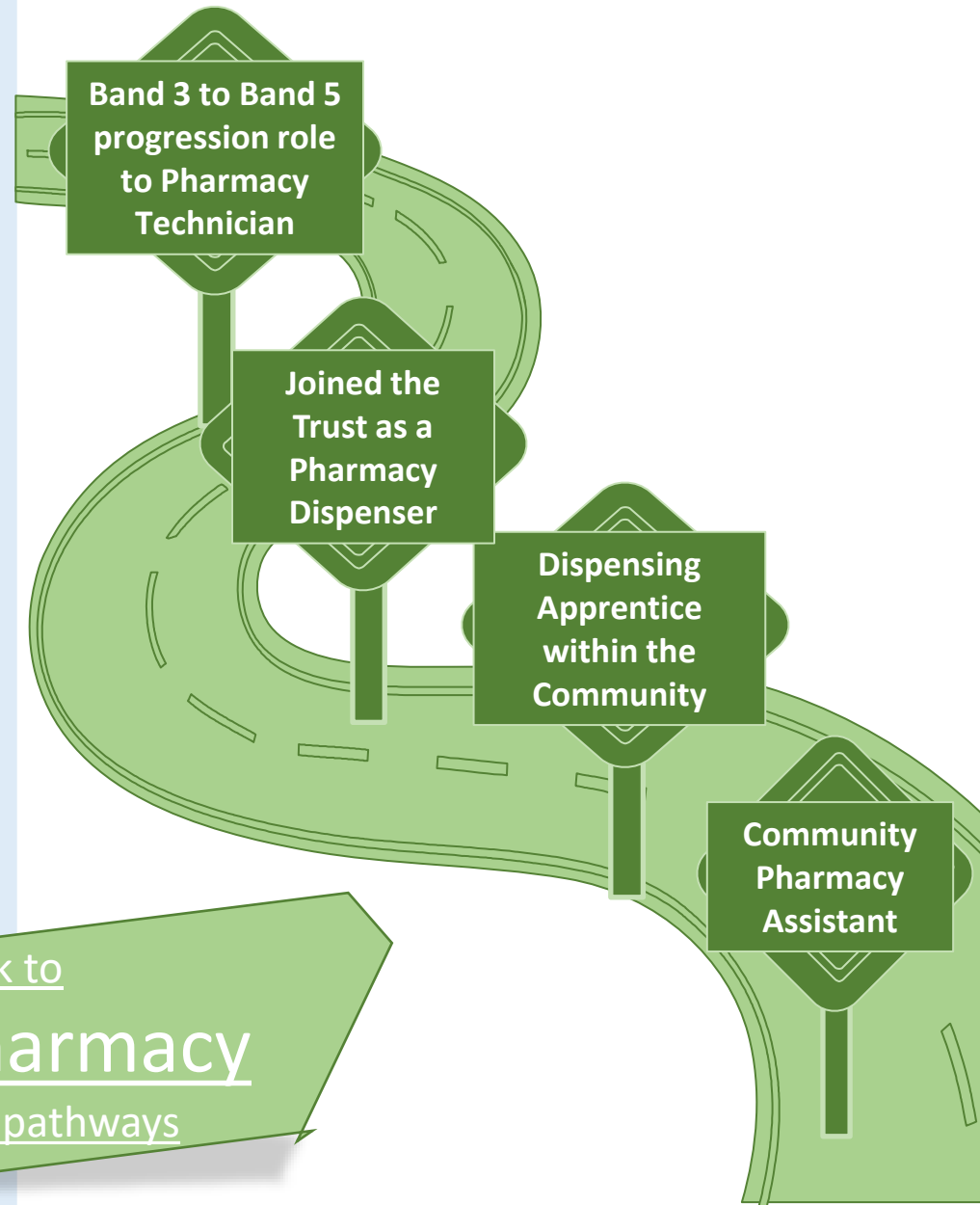
- My interest in the science behind medicines first began in high school when I was taught how vaccines worked.
- Shortly after I began working part time in a community pharmacy and then decided I would like to study Pharmacy.
- During my degree I completed placements in hospital and quickly discovered I wanted to work within a bustling hospital environment as part of a wider team of health care professionals.
- I completed my training year at Stepping Hill and then worked as a rotation pharmacist within medicine and surgery.
- The following year I took a promotional secondment post working within intermediate care, where I independently established a new role for a clinical pharmacist in this sector.
- I then returned to Stepping Hill and continued my rotational post whilst completing my clinical diploma.
- I then secured a further promotion within a specialist area, working closely with nurses and consultants and completed my prescribing qualification, during which time I also took two separate breaks from work for maternity leave.
- I now lead a small team of pharmacists and technicians and have embarked upon the consultant pharmacist pathway, working at regional and national level to promote the role of pharmacy in the speciality to better improve patient care.

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Olivia's Career Pathway – Pharmacy Technician



Name Olivia
Title Pharmacy Technician

My career journey

- I started working in community pharmacy at the age of 16 as a Saturday girl. At the time I was studying my GCSEs, however whenever I had the spare chance I would work extra shifts to help out and earn money.
- Leaving school is a stressful time for any young person, not knowing at such a young age what you want to do in the future can feel quite daunting. I originally planned to go to my schools sixth form and do my A levels. But as my time went on covering extra shifts, I began to really enjoy learning how pharmacy worked.
- I was then delighted when I was offered an apprenticeship there to do my dispensing course and qualify as a dispenser. I thoroughly enjoyed the apprenticeship, and working within community pharmacy, especially when times got tough during the covid pandemic it was important that I showed the resilience as a pharmacy professional to provide the best service to patients.
- After 4 years in community pharmacy, I decided it was time for me to move on and progress within the pharmacy industry. I started looking for jobs within hospital pharmacy as I fancied a change. That is then when I applied for Stepping Hill Hospital and eventually started in November 2021, and I can honestly say it is one of the best decisions I have ever made. Hospital pharmacy is very different to community pharmacy but I threw myself into the job role and I still learn new things everyday.
- After 3 months, the pharmacy department released two job advertisements for a brand new role which was a band 3-5 progression post. This meant as a dispenser you then get enrolled onto the pharmacy technician course for 2 years. Then once completed, practice for a year as a registered GPHC pharmacy technician and then after that get enrolled straight onto your accuracy checking course. With no hesitation I applied for this post, as I felt this was the perfect opportunity to progress in the pharmacy industry which was my original plan for moving jobs.
- To be offered this progression post was one of the biggest achievements I have ever had. I'm currently a few months into my pharmacy technician course and I am working very hard to achieve my qualifications.