

Pharmacy Clerk

■ Job Description

Pharmacy clerks order and receive stock and supplies, label drugs and chemicals, deliver drugs, clean equipment and work areas, sterilize containers, and perform other duties under the direction of a pharmacist.

■ Job Settings

Community and hospital pharmacies

■ Projected Need

Nationally and in Illinois, average employment growth is expected for pharmacy aides through 2010.

Much of the increase in jobs for pharmacy aides will be due to the growing number of middle-aged and elderly people. These groups tend to use more prescription drugs than younger people. In addition, insurance companies and pharmacies are concerned about costs. They will rely on aides to perform more routine tasks once done by pharmacy technicians.

In Illinois, there were about 4,340 people employed in this small occupation in 2000.

■ Related Careers

Health unit coordinator, medical assistant, dental assistant, occupational and physical therapist aides

■ Differences in Training

Most pharmacy clerks are trained on the job. Employers prefer applicants who get along well with people and know how to serve customers. Experience managing supplies and using computers is helpful.