

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Pharmacist I

Class Code: 50810

Pay Grade: MJ

A. Purpose:

Dispenses patient prescriptions, maintains patient medication profiles, compounds medications, and recommends proper drug dosages for patients to fill written prescriptions issued by physicians and dentists.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

The Pharmacist I dispenses prescriptions, compounds medications, and maintains patient profile charts.

The Pharmacist II directs and administers the pharmacy unit at a state institution.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions which may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Compounds and dispenses medications and other pharmaceutical supplies, using standards and physical procedures to fill written prescriptions issued by physicians and dentists.
 - a. Types labels, selects correct medicine container, and the appropriate dosage form such as liquid, tablet, or capsule.
 - b. Makes a recommendation for drug usage or change to physicians and nurses.
 - c. Instructs patients in proper use of their prescribed medications.
2. Reviews written prescriptions to determine the ingredients needed and to ensure overdoses have not been prescribed.
3. Maintains patient profiles by noting drug doses, interactions, lab work, diets, immunizations, treatments, and allergies ensuring the patient is receiving proper medication and the best possible care available.
4. Maintains drug inventory by determining the stock needed, receiving the order, completing inventory cards, and restocking the shelves to ensure the inventory is well-stocked and orderly.
5. Provides information to physicians and other staff members on the availability of new drugs, the incompatibility of certain drugs, and the contradictions of drugs and other pharmaceuticals to keep the staff updated on changes in the pharmaceutical industry.
6. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Typically the incumbent does not supervise.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenges include recommending a drug and dosage for a patient with a difficult condition to treat.

Typical problems include treating patients who will not take the prescribed medications, determining if an appropriate medication is being prescribed based on the medication the patient is currently receiving, and ensuring medicines are packaged and labeled properly, enabling the patient to receive the proper dose at the prescribed time.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions include determining when the inventory is low and supplies need to be ordered, which generic medications to purchase, and also alternatives to present to subscribers.

Decisions referred include a decision regarding a change in the policy or procedure of the institution, a change in a patient's medication, and approval of major purchases for the pharmacy unit.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with the medical and nursing staff concerning the medications of patients and clarification of prescriptions and occasional contact with representatives of different pharmaceutical companies providing information on new medications and prices of these drugs.

H. Working Conditions:

The incumbent works in a typical pharmacy environment and is required to stand for extended periods of time.

I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- the principles of specialized sciences directly applicable to pharmacy;
- the regulatory and enforcement procedures in drug areas;
- special instruments and techniques used in compounding and manufacturing pharmaceuticals;
- chemical, biological, and comparative therapeutic properties of a wide range of drugs and technical literature;
- state and federal laws and hospital regulations regarding regulation of pharmacy practices.

Ability to:

- follow instructions;
- prepare reports and maintain records;
- compound prescriptions and manufacture pharmaceuticals.

J. Licenses and Certification:

Must be or eligible to be licensed as a pharmacist in the State of South Dakota.