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Nō Te Whānau-A-Ruataupare

# PHARMACIST KAITIAKI RONGOĀ

Pharmacists help patients to use medicines safely and also to improve health and wellness. No appointment is needed to see a pharmacist and they are often the health professional patients see first.



Kia Ora **Hauora**  
Supporting Māori into Health

## WHAT IS A PHARMACIST?

Pharmacists help patients to use medicines safely and also to improve health and wellness. No appointment is needed to see a pharmacist and they are often the health professional patients see first.

Some of the things pharmacists do are:

- provide patients with information and advice on medicines, health issues and lifestyle choices
- advise doctors, nurses and other health professionals about the best medicine choices
- offer services to monitor blood pressure, blood sugar levels or to check for gout
- visit patients in a variety of settings – at home, in the hospital, at the marae or at the doctors
- provide medicines to patients
- pharmacists with extra training can also prescribe medicines

## WHERE DO PHARMACISTS WORK?

Pharmacists mostly work in community pharmacies; however, they can also work in hospitals, universities, in primary healthcare clinics, for the pharmaceutical industry and in a range of departments which focus on the safe and effective use of medicines.

## WHAT TRAINING IS INVOLVED?

To become a pharmacist, you need to:

- complete a Bachelor of Pharmacy
- complete an internship of one year working in a hospital or community pharmacy (paid employment)

There are two universities that offer the Bachelor of Pharmacy:

- University of Auckland
- University of Otago

## WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

A tertiary entrance qualification is needed to enter tertiary training. Useful subjects include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Maths
- English
- Physics
- Te Reo Māori

