Pharmacy Department

Vacation Pharmacy Student

Information Pack
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1. CHELSEA AND WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is a teaching hospital linked to the Imperial College School of London. The hospital opened in 1993 following the reorganisation of services from St Stephen’s, Westminster, Westminster Children’s, West London and St Mary Abbot’s Hospital. The hospital has approximately 430 inpatient beds and was ranked one of the top 5 hospitals in England for low mortality rates in the latest Dr Foster Hospital Guide.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital covers a wide range of specialties, which are divided into the following four directorates: Medicine and the Emergency Department (ED), Anaesthetics and Imaging, Surgery, Women’s and Children’s, HIV and GUM. In 2015 Chelsea and Westminster Hospital merged with West Middlesex University Hospital to form a single hospital Trust.

The building is quite unlike any other hospital. As you walk through the entrance, you will understand why Chelsea and Westminster Hospital has been described as having “a feeling of light and space, unusual to most other hospitals”. Chelsea and Westminster hospital became a Foundation Trust in October 2006 which has made the Trust more accountable to patients, the public and our staff.

Art, sculpture, photography, music and performance contributed by staff, patients and friends of Chelsea and Westminster are a prominent feature of the hospital and are promoted by the Arts of Health.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital has excellent educational facilities ranging from the on-site library, research laboratories and lecture rooms.

The hospital is located in central London with excellent transport links via bus (11, 14, 22, 211, 328414 and C3) or tube (Earl’s Court, Fulham Broadway and South Kensington, all within a 10 – 15 minutes’ walk to the hospital).
2. THE PHARMACY

The main Pharmacy at Chelsea and Westminster is located on the ground floor of the hospital.

We operate one of the most modern and efficient pharmacy services in the UK with shorter patient waiting times and a safer, more effective service for patients. The spacious department which includes a combined inpatient and outpatient dispensary, pneumatic air tubes, directorate specific clinical offices and at the heart of stock control and dispensing there is a robot that dispenses and labels drugs. The robot reduces the risk of dispensing errors and also helps reduce waste by monitoring expiry dates. Using a robot frees pharmacists and technicians from traditional stock control and dispensing duties so that they can spend more time on wards helping patients and sharing their expertise with clinical staff to improve prescribing and clinical administration.

Medication is ordered through the Trust electronic patient record system and using the Trust’s computerised dispensing system. A HIV satellite pharmacy is based in the adjacent St Stephen’s Centre, which is of the largest HIV treatment centres in Europe.

3. SERVICES

3.1 Clinical Services

Clinical pharmacy is tailored to reflect the Trust’s directorate structure. There are four teams of pharmacists and technicians which provide a comprehensive clinical pharmacy service to the hospital.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine and ED</th>
<th>Cardiology, Care of the Elderly, Dermatology, Diabetes, ED, Gastroenterology, Microbiology, Neurology, Oncology, Respiratory, Rheumatology.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surgery (inclusive of anaesthetics and imaging)</td>
<td>Burns, General Surgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Plastics, Urology, Wound Care, Bariatric.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s and Children</td>
<td>Gynaecology, Obstetrics, NICU, Paediatrics, Neonatal and Paediatric TPN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaesthetics and Imaging</td>
<td>Adult TPN, Day Surgery, ITU, Pain and Palliative Care, Phlebotomy, Resuscitation, Theatres, X-ray.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and GUM</td>
<td>Kobler Pharmacy, West London Centre for Sexual Health, 56 Dean Street.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The service is tailored to meet the needs of the individual directorates and focuses on the provision of patient centred care at the bedside. Pharmacists are given the opportunity to attend post take ward rounds and drug history and medicines reconciliation is undertaken on all wards. The resident pharmacists provide the vital links and support to deliver an exceptional service 24 hours a day.

All pharmacists are encouraged to participate on ward rounds, write discharge prescriptions following accreditation, undertake pharmacy practice research and further develop clinical pharmacy. Ward based pharmacy technician’s duties include taking drug histories, assessing the use of patients own drugs, ordering of medicines, discharge co-ordination and counselling patients on the medication. Pharmacy technicians are also encouraged to undertake the Accredited Checking Pharmacy Technicians (ACPT) course to undertake a final check of prescriptions.

3.2 Patient Services

The supply of medicines is the backbone of the overall Pharmacy service. Considerable investment has been made to ensure that this essential service continues to serve the Trust needs.

In May 2003, the robot was installed as part of a wider pharmacy modernisation programme and electronic prescribing was fully rolled-out in the Trust by Autumn 2010. Our progressive, innovative approach to pharmacy service delivery enables technical staff to spend greater time on wards ensuring efficient patient discharge and comprehensive medicines counselling.

3.3 Technical Services

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is one of the hospitals in the West London Cancer Network area and provides comprehensive cancer care via a multidisciplinary team to defined patient groups. The hospital is also a national specialist centre for malignancy associated with HIV infection.

As well as providing clinical pharmacy to oncology, the technical services department compounds all cytotoxic chemotherapy using standard isolator technology.
3.4 Medicines Information

A well-resourced Medicines Information centre aims to support the safe, effective and efficient use of medicines by the provision of evidence-based enquiry answering on all aspects of drug therapy. The service answers a range of enquiries that essentially supports medicines management within the Trust and supports the pharmaceutical care of individual patients. The centre also has a designated patient help-line for providing medicines information directly to patients. With a high influx of HIV-related enquiries, the centre is a UKMI Specialist HIV advisory centre and is able to advise other secondary/tertiary organisations.

The use of unlicensed medicines within the Trust are also managed by the centre. Support to the Chelsea and Westminster medicines committee is also provided through new drug evaluations and the updating of the formulary that is published on the Trust website.

4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There is a commitment within the department and throughout the London region to ensure that individuals have the opportunity to develop their skills and strengths. In addition to our own in-house training, we also participate in the region’s extensive training programme for pharmacists, technicians and pre-registration graduates. There is extensive investment in the training for all staff. Post-graduate education is considered a vital part of staff training needs and staff are encouraged to undertake the appropriate preparation required to develop themselves in relation to their professional goals. All staff have personal performance reviews and individualised development plans.

5. VACATION WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience placements are usually for a four week period. A student will be placed in one area for the duration of the four weeks and will be project based. Areas where the students were based during 2014 include HIV, Medicine, Women’s and Children’s, Anticoagulation, Antibiotics, Clinical Governance, Electronic prescribing and Research. If you have a preference for anyone of these or an alternative area of the pharmacy department please indicate this on your application form.
There will also be an opportunity during this time to gain an insight into many different areas of the pharmacy department and the services provided for example:

- Inpatient Pharmacy
- Outpatient Pharmacy
- Kobler (HIV) dispensary
- Technical Services
- Purchasing
- Distribution
- Medicines Information
- Electronic Prescribing/Clinical

In addition, you will also have an opportunity to accompany pharmacists on the wards.

5.1 Terms and Conditions (unpaid experience)

Hours of work: Monday to Friday 9am to 5.00pm
For fixed period of four weeks

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 Social Activities

The Pharmacy has a strong tradition of being a social bunch! The department has seen it as a challenge to make the very most of the extensive restaurant and bar facilities along the Fulham Road. Other local sports and fitness clubs are available at a reduced subscription e.g. Virgin Active. Staff can also take advantage of the various discounts available at local shops, restaurants and bars located in the area.

7. Contact Details

For further information, please contact:

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