

What is Pharmacy?

Pharmacy is the science and technique of preparing and dispensing drugs and medicines. It is a health profession that links the health sciences with the chemical sciences and aims to ensure the safe and effective use of pharmaceuticals or drugs.

The Greek word pharmakon means "drug" or "medicine".

Pharmacists, therefore, are the experts of drugs who not only manufacture medicines but also optimize use of medication for the benefit of the patients.

Pharmacy can be defined in the following ways:

- It is the science of medicinal substances comprising of Pharmacology, Phytochemistry, Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutics, and Pharmaceutical chemistry.
- It is a place where prescription medicines are dispensed.
- The occupation of Pharmacist is known as Pharmacy.
- It is also considered as the art of preparing medicinal products, or a place where such substances are sold.
- It is the study of the preparation and dispensing of medications.
- It is the branch of health sciences dealing with the preparation, storage and proper utilization of medicinal products.

So, Pharmacy is a health profession which is concerned with the design, production, evaluation and proper / rational use of medicine. It links the health science with the biological, chemical and medical science.

A **Pharmacist** is a person whose profession is Pharmacy. In India the minimum qualification for registration as a Pharmacist is "Diploma course in Pharmacy" (D.Pharm) or "Degree course in Pharmacy" (B.Pharm) or "Doctor of Pharmacy" (Pharm D) from an institution approved u/s 12 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948.



Pharmaceutical Associations

A Pharmacist can be a member of following associations:

- The International Pharmaceutical Federation (**FIP**)
www.fip.org
- Indian Pharmaceutical Association (**IPA**)
www.ipapharma.org
- Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association (**IPCA**)
www.scientificipca.org

Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association (IPCA) is the apex body representing the Pharmaceutical working in various disciplines and areas of work. It is a federation of 5 National Pharmaceutical Associations as its constituents which includes

1. Indian Pharmaceutical Association (**IPA**)
www.ipapharma.org
2. Indian Pharmacy Graduate's Association (**IPGA**)
www.ipga.in
3. Indian Hospitals Pharmacists Association (**IHPA**)
www.ihpa.co.in
4. The Association of Pharma Teachers of India (**APTI**)
www.aptiindia.org
5. The All India Drugs Control Officers Confederation (**AIDCOC**)
www.aidcoc.in