

Pharmacist interview checklist

Retail chains usually run an HR screen and a store manager interview, sometimes with a short written test on drugs and regulations; hospitals add a discussion with the chief pharmacist on dispensing, storage and clinical checks.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. You receive a prescription that is unclear or hard to read. What do you do?

What it checks: Whether you refuse to guess, contact the prescriber and document the clarification, putting patient safety ahead of speed.

2. Tell me about a dispensing error you caught before it reached a patient.

What it checks: Whether you have checking habits that work and whether you report near misses to improve the system.

3. Are you comfortable with evening shifts, Sundays and working at different stores?

What it checks: Whether you fit the working pattern of retail chains or hospital pharmacies, which often run long hours and all week.

4. How do you check a prescription for drug interactions?

What it checks: Whether you have a systematic screening process, use reliable references and know what to do when you find a significant interaction.

5. Describe a time you handled a difficult customer at the counter.

What it checks: Whether you stay calm and courteous, explain rules clearly and find a solution without breaking regulations.

6. Why do you want to move from retail to hospital pharmacy?

What it checks: Whether your career move is thought through, and whether your skills transfer to a clinical setting.

7. How do you counsel a patient who is starting a new medicine?

What it checks: Whether you give clear, practical information on use, side effects and warning signs, and check the patient has understood.

8. Tell me about a time you raised a concern with a doctor about a prescription.

What it checks: Whether you communicate professionally with prescribers, bring clear evidence and keep the conversation focused on patient safety rather than who is right.

9. What salary are you expecting for this pharmacist role?

What it checks: Whether your expectation is realistic for your experience and setting, and you can discuss it professionally.

10. What are Schedule H and Schedule H1 drugs, and how do you handle them?

What it checks: Whether you know the basic Indian rules on prescription-only medicines and the extra record-keeping required for Schedule H1.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Revise the rules for prescription-only and controlled medicines, including Schedule H, Schedule H1 and NDPS record-keeping, since these come up in almost every pharmacy interview.

- Practise counselling out loud for common items like inhalers, insulin pens and antibiotics, keeping it clear and under two minutes.
- Know how your pharmacy software flags interactions and expiry, and be ready to explain how you would double-check its alerts.
- Carry your D.Pharm or B.Pharm certificate, State Pharmacy Council registration and experience letters, as chains often verify registration before issuing an offer.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave