



WHAT ARE YOU UP FOR?

MY LIFE AS



A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN: EMMA ROBINSON

Emma Robinson always wanted to work in the medical field. She discovered that she could become a pharmacy technician with far less formal education than required for other medical professions. In fact, a certification is required, but no advanced degree. After earning her certification Emma set her sight on working in a hospital and advanced through several pharmacy positions, gaining new experience and skills with each. Now a pharmacy technician at Texas Children's Hospital, she prepares medications and doses that patients need during surgeries and treatments, and when recovering at home.

Emma is one of more than 335,000 healthcare professionals in Houston and works within the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world. She loves the hospital environment and being on the forefront of using new technologies that improve patient care and patients' lives. Emma has continued learning and earning certifications. She has set a new goal of becoming a nurse at Texas Children's.

REQUIREMENTS:

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) certification from the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. See www.pharmacy.texas.gov/pharmacytechs.asp.

SALARY:

The average pay rate is \$17 per hour.

CAREER PATH:

Various retail pharmacy positions with CVS Pharmacy; pharmacy technician, inpatient and outpatient (retail) technician, at Texas Children's Hospital & Clinics

ADVANCEMENT:

Inventory specialist (supervisor), pharmacy buyer, pharmacy technician manager/Operations

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

A pharmacy technician must pay attention to detail, have effective communication skills, and be able to work in a fast-paced, team environment. Pharmacy techs need to be organized and have good customer service skills.

KEY CAREER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Prepare medications and doses for operating rooms, the dialysis clinic, and the bone marrow transplant clinic; reconstitute medications; compound medications; deliver medications to operating rooms and patient rooms.