



Gemm Limos
Senior Pharmacy Technician in Clinical Trials
Wellington Hospital

Why did you become a pharmacy technician?

I was a registered pharmacist back in the Philippines and I wanted to become a pharmacist in New Zealand. But I would have needed to go back to university and do more study, pass a series of exams and do a year as an intern to register in New Zealand. So, I became a pharmacy technician instead.

What do you enjoy most about being a pharmacy technician?

The opportunity to promote the importance of clinical trials when I'm running the induction for clinical trials for new staff and interns at the hospital. Without clinical trials we wouldn't be able to explore the possibilities of new medications and preserve current medications.

Tell us why your role is essential to your workplace profession?

I am the main person responsible for clinical trials so it's a lot of responsibility. I create charts and worksheets for compounding and reviewing protocols and pharmacy manuals for specific studies. I look after all the daily routines for clinical trials, patients receiving their medications, fridge monitoring, supply and logistics, that sort of thing.

Are there any areas of health or medicines you are particularly interested in?

I have a passion for antimicrobial stewardship and for clinical trials, specifically for cancer.

Where do you see the pharmacy profession heading in the future?

I see pharmacy technicians doing more senior and clinical roles in the wards in the future. In the UK pharmacy technicians manage the dispensary and sterile compounding units at hospitals. In New Zealand we could make better use of pharmacy technician's skills to do more of these roles. Also, technicians working in community pharmacy are capable of giving clinical advice if they have the proper training.

What does Pharmacy Technician Day mean to you?

Pharmacy Technician Day means recognising pharmacy technicians as one of the key healthcare professionals in the health system, since the work we do is not usually visible to most people.