

# **Independent Community Pharmacy**

## **Why consider a career in independent community pharmacy?**

When many people think of a pharmacist, they think of the caring individual in their local, community pharmacy. Oftentimes, this pharmacist owns the pharmacy. One reason pharmacy is among the most trusted professions is because patients truly appreciate the exceptional level of care and service provided by independent pharmacists year in and year out. Independent community pharmacies are stable, reliable businesses that are at the heart and soul of many communities. All potential pharmacists should consider this exciting and rewarding career path.

## **Why do pharmacists want to own a pharmacy?**

According to one pharmacy owner, "The best perk of ownership to me is that I can change the way I do things when and however I want to." For many pharmacy owners, this means offering innovative patient care services ranging from disease management to tailor-made products through compounding. In 2002, 62% of independent pharmacies offered high blood pressure monitoring and 41% offered diabetes education and training to their patients.\*

What is the difference between an independent community pharmacy and a chain pharmacy? Independent community pharmacies are pharmacist-owned and privately held. And whether they own one pharmacy, three pharmacies, or ten pharmacies independent community pharmacists are personally invested in the neighborhoods they serve.

## **Are there any independent pharmacies out there?**

In 2002, there were approximately 24,000 independently owned pharmacies employing over 62,000 pharmacists in the United States.\*

## **Is there any opportunity for me to own a pharmacy?**

Currently, over half of pharmacy owners are over the age of 50. This means that many of these pharmacy owners are looking for a young pharmacist to take over the business. If you're considering a career in independent pharmacy, you could be in a position to make arrangements with your local pharmacy owner to work your way into pharmacy ownership while you're going to pharmacy school. Also, there are many areas that are not being served by a community pharmacist, and there are many resources available to those who would like to start a pharmacy from the ground up.

## **How much money does a pharmacy owner make?**

In 2002, the average pre-tax income for a pharmacy owner was \$195,901.\*

## **Do pharmacy owners have time for their family?**

When one pharmacy owner who is also a mom was asked this question she replied, "As a pharmacy owner, I could get a relief pharmacist if I wanted to go to my daughters' school Christmas party," she continued, "If I were somebody's employee, I might have prioritized differently." Also, many pharmacy owners are active in their communities by sponsoring softball teams, serving in their church, running for political office, and speaking at local schools.

For additional information, contact  
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\* - Source: 2002 NCPA-Pfizer Digest