

**ALUMNI
COLUMN**

LITTLE MISS DINA'S REFLECTION ON HER COMMUNITY PHARMACY ATTACHMENT

Early in the beginning of this year, I participated in the compulsory community pharmacy attachment and impressively, it left me a lot to reflect on. This attachment has been transformative for me as a final-year pharmacy student, offering a practical glimpse into the dynamics of a community pharmacist's role. It allowed me to apply the knowledge I've gained over four years of study, giving my academic efforts tangible value. Working alongside pharmacists I once admired as a child feels surreal and fulfilling, particularly when I successfully handled cases involving minor health ailments. This experience has deepened my passion for community service and reinforced my enthusiasm for serving the public as a future community pharmacist.

The attachment also enhanced my learning through daily discussions with my preceptor. I prepared questions and studied relevant topics beforehand, ensuring productive interactions. Among the most enlightening sessions were those on eye diseases, where I learned about allergy, viral, and bacterial conjunctivitis, including their symptoms and treatments. For example, I confidently managed a few cases of allergic conjunctivitis by recommending antihistamines and mast-cell stabilizers. Similarly, I gained valuable insights into choosing suitable wheelchairs and rehabilitation items based on patient needs. These lessons were supported by Alpro Pharmacy's resources, such as illustration aids and detailed guides, which improved my ability to assist customers effectively.

Additionally, I gained practical skills in handling online orders through platforms like Foodpanda and Grab Mart. Preparing these orders, which included over-the-counter (OTC) items, diapers, and toiletries, highlighted the importance of accessibility for patients unable to visit the pharmacy. This practice underscored the evolving role of community pharmacies in meeting community needs.

Beyond technical knowledge, this attachment polished my communication and social skills. I learned to use laymen terms with customers and observed significant improvement in my ability to assist and connect with them daily. It also provided exposure to the operational aspects of Alpro Pharmacy, including its collaboration with Zakat and MyCare insurance for claims processing.



Overall, I really enjoyed this attachment very much. I am incredibly happy and grateful that my attachment experience not only exceeded my expectations but also earned the company's trust, leading to them offering me a position!

P/S: spoiler alert! Currently, I am working as part-time staff in Alpro Bangi since my preceptor likes me a lot! >_<" Surprisingly, the company contacted me and offered me the position. In comparison to my attachment period and my current position, I can say that I am more confident now, whether it is to assist my customers in terms of dispensing medications or recommending supplements that suites their needs. There is definitely a long way to go. Starting my part time here is just the beginning of my career and I am looking forward to my training for provisionally registered pharmacist (PRP) next year! Please pray for me and my fellow Rx19 friends.

Author biography



Wardina Wirasari. 23. Fresh graduate. Happy. Once wrote an article with my classmate which was published under Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka.

Here's the link:

<https://dewankosmik.jendeladbp.my/2024/08/29/13483/>