

OPERATING AT FULL-SCOPE ENHANCES ACCESS TO CARE

The origins of pharmacy takes us to ancient times. It's a noteworthy role in healthcare, making pharmacists an essential part of your healthcare team.

At the Peterborough Family Health Team (FHT), Shannon, a pharmacist, received an opportunity to expand her scope of practice, as well as her role function, over a span of five years.

"When I first started at the family health team, I was in the INR (Anticoagulation) Clinic two-days a week," Shannon said and went on to explain how the organization supported her while expanding her role as a pharmacist.

"After some time, I expressed to the leadership team that I had interest to be part of the *FHT to Quit* smoking cessation program. The organization was very supportive in sending me to obtain the appropriate training from the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health."

At the same time, Shannon was working towards her Certified Diabetes Educator designation. When she attained this, further opportunities opened up for her within the FHT.

"I once more approached the leadership team and asked if I could collaborate with a registered dietitian to deliver a team-based diabetes care program for patients who were part of the clinic I worked in," Shannon stated.

"Shannon has always loved this element of her job: working with other healthcare disciplines. The *FHT to Quit* program weaves the pharmacist and mental health clinician disciplines to support patients while they try to reach their quitting goal. Additionally, working with a solid group of pharmacists at the FHT is invaluable.



When asked about a memorable experience Shannon has had with a patient, she explained that it is so hard to pick just one.

“A recent memory is the Covid-19 vaccine clinics we held at the INR clinics,” Shannon said while thinking back on her many patient interactions. “Our patients were so appreciative and thankful that they could receive this important vaccine in a place where they already felt comfortable. We were also able to extend this service to the spouses and families of our INR Clinic patients.”

As appreciative as Shannon felt during those Covid-19 vaccine clinics, she and her fellow pharmacists did notice aggression and rude behavior from some; something not tolerated by the organization as safety for the frontline staff is always a priority. Like many organizations, the leadership team quickly outlined rules and courtesies to patients attending the programs and workshops.

With the support from the leadership team and the many opportunities Shannon received to expand her role as a pharmacist, she couldn't be happier to work with an organization dedicated to both patients and employees.

Shannon explains that for a pharmacist, working with the Peterborough FHT is a very coveted position. It provides you with good hours (minimal evenings and no weekends!), there is flexibility giving you the work/life balance, and overall it's a supportive environment.



Join our team today. Visit www.peterboroughfht.com/careers for details.