



Title 21 Vacancy Announcement
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Office of Communications (OCOMM)
Division of Drug Information (DDI)

Application Period: June 19, 2023 – June 30, 2023

Area of Consideration: United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

Position: Pharmacist

Series: AD-0660

Location(s): Silver Spring, MD

Salary: \$132,368 - \$184,868

Work Schedule: Full Time

Cures Band(s): D

Full Performance Band Level: D

Travel Requirements: 25% or less

Bargaining Unit: 3591

Relocation Expenses Reimbursement: Reimbursement of relocation expenses is not payable.

This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority.

Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:

[21st Century Cures Act Information](#)

Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices safe, and effective.

The mission of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) to perform an essential public health task by making sure that safe and effective drugs are available to improve the

health of people in the United States. CDER regulates non-prescription and prescription drugs, including biological therapeutics and generic drugs.

The Office of Communications (OCOMM) is a multi-faceted organization with responsibility for the overall communication efforts within as the variety of responsibilities including advising Center leadership on communications strategies and providing leadership and direction for all Center internal/external communications.

The mission of the Division of Drug Information (DDI) is to support the Agency's mission to promote and protect public health by optimizing CDER's educational and communication efforts with our global community. DDI accomplishes this through effective internal and external correspondence and communications that provide timely, accurate, and useful information through both traditional and social media channels.

Duties/Responsibilities

As a **Pharmacist**, the incumbent is responsible for technical consultation, advice, and guidance on complex drug information inquiries and issues in the pharmacy field for the Office of Communications/Division of Drug Information (OCOMM/DDI).

- Researches, analyzes, develops, writes, edits, and evaluates both mass and targeted communications relating to the Center's scientific, medical, and regulatory policies.
- Communicates complex scientific information to various audiences with varying educational levels.
- Works with other members of the writing and project team in the development of mass and targeted written correspondence communication strategies.
- Independently performs research, as well as drafts and submits various written communications products such as online educational content, online learning, and crafted communications specific to myriad stakeholders contacting the agency (i.e., Congressional legislative staff, advocacy groups, health care associations, etc.).
- Works independently and/or collaboratively to develop, draft, place and manage science-based writing projects in support of CDER-related policy initiatives. Ensures that the written products contain no conflict with the existing policies and objectives of the related programs.

Supervisory Responsibilities: N/A

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.
- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this

announcement.

- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959 must be registered with the Selective Service.
- One-year probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.

Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
 - a. **Qualified** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.
 - b. **Outstanding** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

To qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following **required** qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as required is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the “desired” criteria will not be excluded from consideration for this position.*

Education Requirement: [Pharmacist, AD-0660 Series](#)

For more information, please see: [OPM Occupational Series Qualification Requirements](#).

Medical Requirements:

Applicants must be able to distinguish basic colors.

Professional Experience:

Our ideal candidate must possess:

- Ability to provide guidance to team members as it relates to problems of all

complexities and ensure sound regulatory determinations. Experience interfacing with a diverse group of scientific professionals.

- Ability to identify and analyze problems; weigh relevance and accuracy of information; generate and evaluate alternative solutions; and make recommendations and/or implement program changes.
- Experience applying knowledge of drug products to aid in leading a team of regulatory experts who may present complex drug product questions or cases that require advanced assessment, interpretation, guidance, or decisions.
- Ability to communicate orally in order to collaborate with and empower team members. Ability to assist customers that have experienced adverse reactions by providing information about potential side effects and providing information on how to report to MedWatch.
- Ability to communicate in writing in order to prepare deliverables that convey relevant product development information to the drug industries. Experience responding via email to domestic and international consumers, health care professionals, and industry on behalf of the Agency. Experience with writing content for the FDA webpage.

Desired Professional Experience:

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- High level of regulatory technical expertise and drug knowledge.
- Skills necessary to work independently with occasional consultation with the appropriate supervisor.
- Ability to apply judgement and experience to advise or seek guidance on complex, controversial and precedent setting topics. Emphasis is placed on the pharmacist's ability to negotiate or coordinate actions independently as necessary to the continuity of the project(s) being managed.

Education Transcripts

SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: Non-Sensitive/High Risk

A background security investigation will be required for all appointees. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet the requirements may be grounds for appropriate personnel action. In addition, if hired, a background security investigation or supplemental investigation may be required later.

Applicants are also advised that all information concerning qualification is subject to investigation. False representation may be grounds for non-selection and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

Ethics Clearance Requirements

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information, please visit the FDA Ethics web page: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](#)

Reasonable Accommodation

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly.

Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits.

Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to

perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](#) or [how to contact an agency](#).

E-Verify

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

How to Apply

Candidates should submit resume or curriculum vitae with cover letter and additional documents (see list below) by **June 30, 2023** to Gelind Johnston at gelind.johnston@fda.hhs.gov.

- Current resume or CV.
- A one-page memo or email indicating why the applicant is interested in being considered for the promotion.
- Current SF-50 (not from a cash or time-off award) showing current position, series, grade, and step (preferably last promotion or within-grade increase SF-50).
- Transcripts (if needed to verify basic requirements).

Commissioned Corps Officers are encouraged to apply and should submit the above documentations, including a copy of most recent personnel orders.

Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring officials within the CDER with a similar job vacancy. Candidates can opt out of this process by annotating resume with “do not share”.

Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact Gelind Johnston at gelind.johnston@fda.hhs.gov.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

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