THE

CHEMIST

THE COMMUNITY PHARMACY GROWTH KIT

OPERATIONS

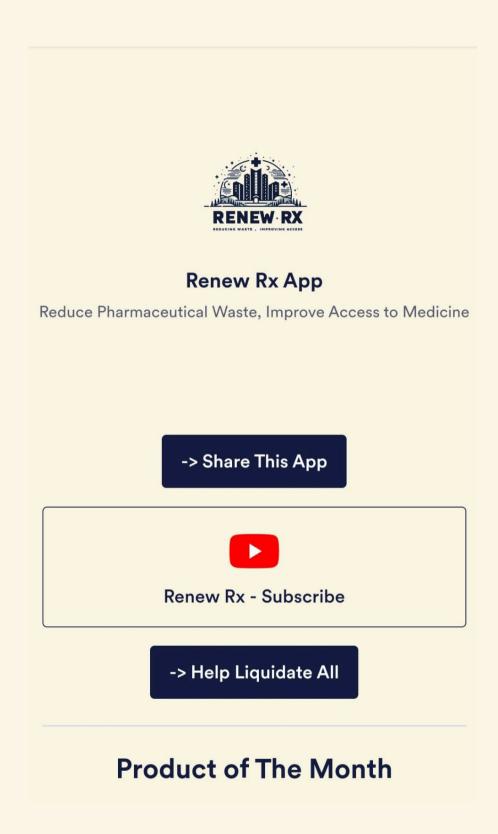
Reimagine Your Pharmacy: Design Thinking for Better Workflows **CASHFLOW**

Is Your Pharmacy
Financially Fit? Find Out
Now!

MARKETING

The Pharmacy Growth Funnel: How To Attract, Engage, & Retain Customers





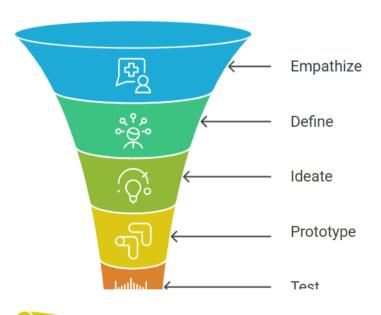
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This February, The Chemist delivers insights to help your pharmacy thrive—streamline workflows with design thinking, assess your financial health, and master customer growth with the Pharmacy Growth Funnel. Packed with tips and strategies, it's your guide to success!

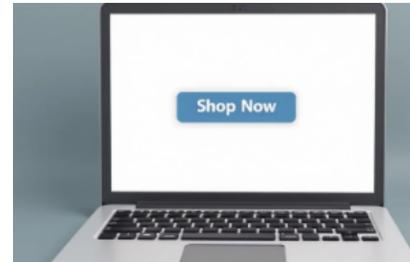
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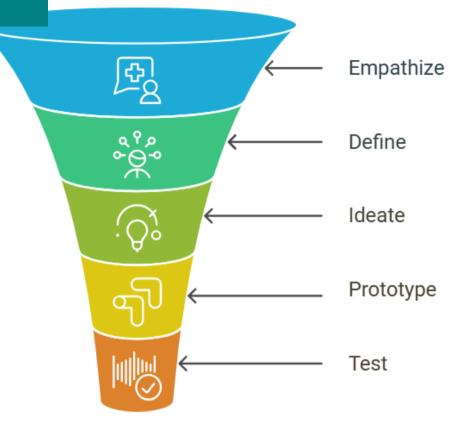






OPERATIONS: REIMAGINE YOUR PHARMACY: DESIGN THINKING FOR BETTER WORKFLOWS

Current Pharmacy
Operations



Improved Pharmacy Workflows

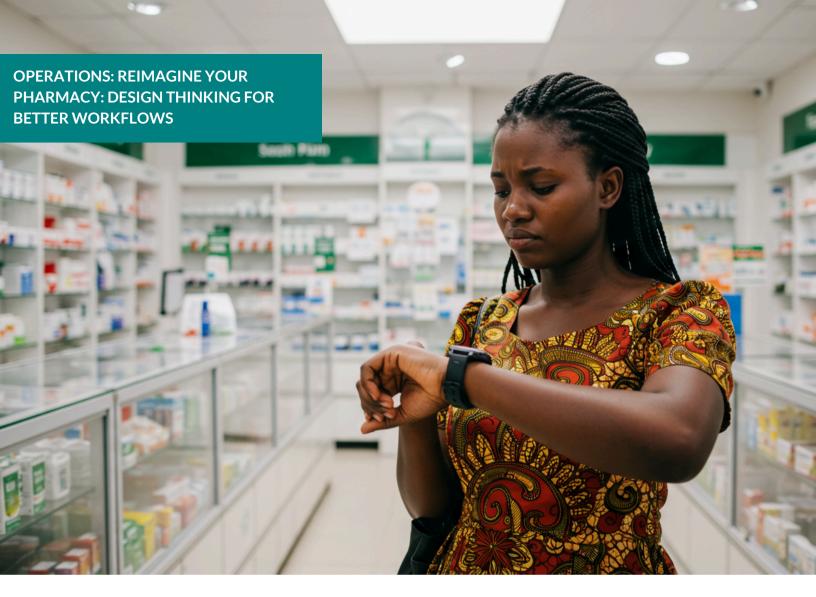
Reimagine Your Pharmacy: Design Thinking For Better Workflows

BY THE CHEMIST

The Challenge of Inefficient Workflows

Imagine this: A patient walks into your pharmacy during a busy hour. Your team is scrambling to keep up. Prescriptions are piling up, the phone is ringing non-stop, and customers are waiting longer than they should. Everyone is stressed, and it's clear—the workflow isn't working as well as it could. Inefficient workflows don't just cause stress; they also lead to mistakes, lost revenue, and unhappy customers. When your team spends more time dealing with chaos than caring for patients, your pharmacy's growth takes a hit. But what if there was a way to fix this? What if you could reimagine your workflows to make them smoother, faster, and more patientcentered?

Here is where design thinking comes in.



A Pharmacy Where Everything Works

Now, picture a different scene. Patients walk in, and your team moves seamlessly. Patients experience rapid prescription processing, receive attentive responses to their questions, and leave feeling satisfied with their care. Your team is energetic, your customers are happy, and your pharmacy thrives.

By applying **design thinking**, you can turn this vision into reality. This powerful problemsolving method helps you create workflows that work for your team and your patients. It's not about making little tweaks; it's about reimagining how you do things—from the ground up.

Let's break down the five stages of design thinking and how you can use them to improve your pharmacy's workflows.

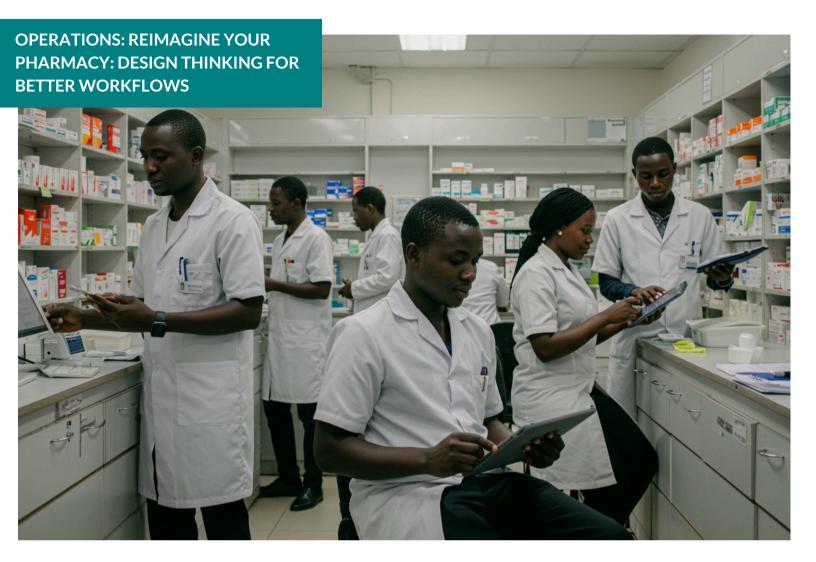
How to Apply Design Thinking in Your Pharmacy

1. Empathize: Understand Your Patients and Team

The first step in design thinking is empathy—putting yourself in the shoes of your patients and team. Spend a day observing your pharmacy's workflow. Where do bottlenecks occur? What frustrations do staff and customers experience?

Practical Tip: Create a simple feedback form for both patients and staff. Ask questions like:

- What is the most frustrating part of your experience at the pharmacy?
- What would make things easier for you? By listening, you'll uncover valuable insights that can guide your changes.



2. Define: Pinpoint the Real Problem

Once you've gathered feedback, define the core problem. Maybe it's long wait times, unclear communication, or inefficient use of technology.

Practical Tip: Write down the problem in one sentence. For example: "Patients are frustrated because they wait too long to pick up prescriptions." This clarity will keep your efforts focused.

3. Ideate: Brainstorm Creative Solutions

Now comes the fun part: brainstorming solutions. Bring your team together and encourage them to think outside the box. No idea is too wild at this stage!

Practical Tip: Use sticky notes to jot down every idea. Group similar ideas together, then prioritize the most promising and feasible.

4. Prototype: Test Your Ideas on a Small Scale

Once you've chosen a solution, create a simple prototype. For instance, if patients face long wait times, your prototype could test a new prescription processing system or assign a dedicated staff member to handle customer questions.

Practical Tip: Start small. Test your idea during one shift or with a specific group of patients. Keep it manageable. Quickly see what works and what doesn't.

5. Test: Gather Feedback and Refine

Finally, test your prototype and gather feedback. Did it solve the problem? What adjustments are needed?

Practical Tip: Set aside time at the end of each day to review how the new process works. Involve your team in this discussion—their input is invaluable.

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Start Small, Dream Big

Reimagining your pharmacy's workflows with design thinking doesn't mean overhauling everything at once. Start with one area that's causing the most pain. Use empathy to understand the problem, define it clearly, brainstorm solutions, prototype a fix, and test it. Small changes can lead to significant improvements.

When you apply design thinking, you're not just improving workflows—you're building a pharmacy where the team thrives, patients feel cared for, and business grows. Ready to reimagine your pharmacy? Start today. Your future self will thank you.



Is Your Pharmacy Financially Fit? Find Out Now

BY THE CHEMIST

When was the last time you looked at your pharmacy's financial health? Just like a routine check-up helps us stay on top of our physical well-being, a financial fitness test can help your pharmacy grow stronger. The secret? Keeping track of key financial ratios.

Let us break them down and see where your pharmacy stands!

1. Profit Margin: How Much Are You Keeping?

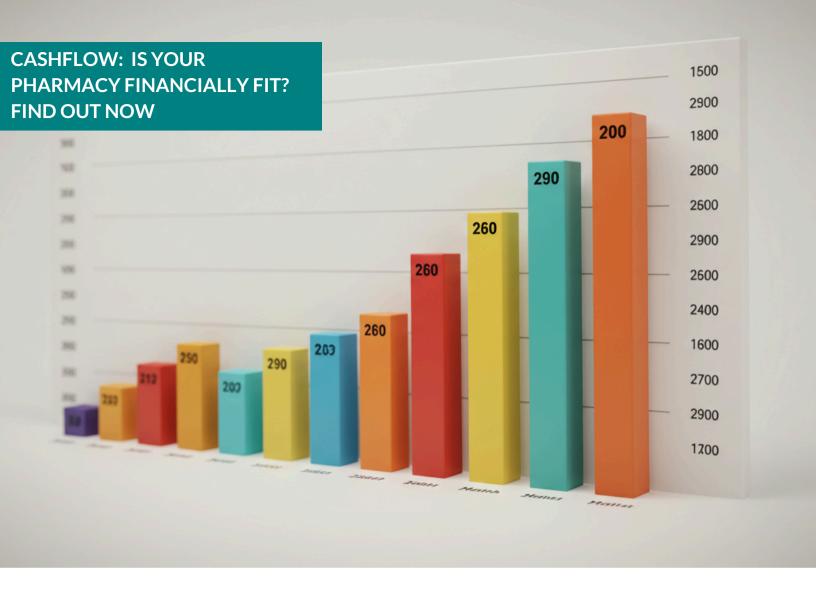
Think of profit margin as the heartbeat of your pharmacy. It shows how much of each sale remains after you have covered all your expenses. To calculate it:

Profit Margin (%) = (Net Profit / Total Sales) x 100

If your profit margin is too low, it is time to check your pricing, supplier deals, or even your operational costs. Healthy pharmacies usually aim for a profit margin of at least 20%.

Quick Tip: Review your top-selling products. Are they priced competitively but profitably?

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2. Current Ratio: Can You Pay Your Bills on Time?

The number measures your ability to cover short-term debts with short-term assets. It is like checking your cash flow pulse. Here is the formula:

Current Ratio = Current Assets / Current Liabilities

A ratio of 1.5 or higher is a good sign that you can comfortably pay your bills. You might need to focus on improving cash flow or reducing unnecessary expenses if lower.

Quick Tip: Keep an eye on inventory. Excess inventory can hinder the allocation of cash to other priorities.

3. Inventory Turnover: Are Your Shelves Moving Fast Enough?

Inventory turnover shows how quickly you are selling and restocking products. A slow turnover could mean overstocking or carrying items that do not sell well. Use this formula:

Inventory Turnover = Cost of Goods Sold /

Average Inventory

A turnover ratio between 6 and 8 is ideal for most pharmacies. Anything lower means it is time to revisit your purchasing strategy.

Quick Tip: Identify slow-moving products and consider promotions or discounts to clear them out.



4. Debt-to-Equity Ratio: Are You **Relying Too Much on Loans?**

The figure compares what you owe to what are using to finance your business:

Debt-to-Equity Ratio = Total Liabilities / **Shareholder Equity**

A ratio under 1 is generally safe for pharmacies. If yours is higher, consider strategies to reduce debt, such as refinancing or increasing profits.

Quick Tip: Review loan terms and look for opportunities to pay down high-interest debt.

5. Sales Growth Rate: Is Your Business **Growing?**

Your sales growth rate measures how your you own. It is a snapshot of how much debt you revenue changes over time. A steady increase shows your pharmacy is on the right track:

Sales Growth Rate (%) = [(Current Period Sales - Previous Period Sales) / Previous Period Sales x 100

A positive growth rate means you are doing well. Still, if sales are not growing, it is time to rethink marketing customer your and engagement strategies.

Quick Tip: Introduce new services or products to attract more customers.



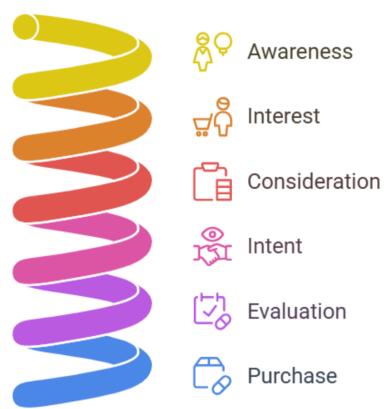
Ready to Take Action?

Now that you know which financial ratios to track, it is time to put this knowledge into practice. Regularly reviewing these numbers will help you stay in control and make smarter decisions for your pharmacy.

Not sure where to start? Use tools like accounting software or a simple spreadsheet to calculate these ratios monthly (Check out our free template in The Chemist WhatsApp
Channel). You will soon get a clear picture of your financial fitness—and how to improve it!

Remember: A financially fit pharmacy is a growing pharmacy. Start tracking today and watch your business thrive!

Pharmacy Marketing Funnel Sequence



The Pharmacy
Growth
Funnel: How
To Attract,
Engage, &
Retain
Customers

BY THE CHEMIST

As a community pharmacy, you know that every customer interaction counts. But how do you convert someone who casually walks by your pharmacy into a loyal customer? Enter the pharmacy growth funnel, a simple way to visualize and improve how you attract, engage, and retain customers.

Let's walk through the six funnel stages with practical tips to help you grow.

1. Awareness: Getting on Their Radar

Here is where potential customers first learn about your pharmacy. It's all about visibility and creating a positive first impression.

Practical Tips:

Online Presence: Set up a Google Business
 Profile for your pharmacy, including
 accurate contact details, hours, and
 location. Encourage happy customers to
 leave reviews.



- Social Media: Post regularly on platforms like Facebook, TikTok and Instagram.
 Share health tips, showcase new products, or highlight your services.
- Community Events: Sponsor local events or host health camps to build your reputation in the community.
- **Signage:** Invest in a clean, bright, and inviting sign for your pharmacy. Make sure it's easy to read and stands out.

"... it's easy to read and stands out."

2. Interest: Sparking Curiosity

Once people know you exist, the next step is to get them interested. Share what makes your pharmacy special.

Practical Tips:

- Educational Content: Offer free guides or pamphlets on topics like managing chronic conditions or preventing colds. Such services position you as a helpful expert.
- Free Samples: Partner with suppliers to give customers free samples of new products.
- **Promotions:** Run seasonal campaigns, such as discounts on cold medications during the rainy season or sun protection products during the sunny seasons.
- Personalized Messaging: Send SMS reminders about refills or new offers to customers who have opted in.



3. Consideration: Building Trust

At this stage, potential customers are deciding whether to choose your pharmacy. Trust is the name of the game.

Practical Tips:

- **Customer Stories:** Share testimonials from satisfied customers (with permission).
- Clean & Welcoming Store: Ensure your pharmacy is neat and organized, with friendly staff ready to assist.
- Exclusive Offers: Highlight membership benefits like loyalty programs or special discounts for regular customers.
- Clear Communication: Use simple and friendly language to explain medications and treatments.

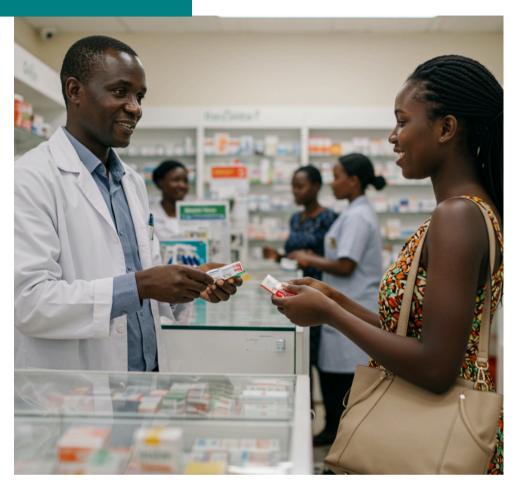
4. Intent: Nudging Toward Action

Now, your potential customer is leaning toward choosing your pharmacy. A little nudge can make all the difference.

Practical Tips:

- Easy Access: Offer services like online prescription refills or free delivery for chronic medications.
- Follow-Ups: If someone inquires about a product or service, follow up with a quick call or message to check if they'd like to proceed.
- Trial Periods: Offer a trial membership for your loyalty program or a "first visit" discount.
- In-Store Experience: Place "eye-catching" product displays at checkout to encourage impulse purchases.

MARKETING: THE PHARMACY GROWTH FUNNEL: HOW TO ATTRACT, ENGAGE, & RETAIN CUSTOMERS



5. Evaluation: Sealing the Deal

Potential customers decide whether to make their first purchase at this stage. Your goal is to make their decision easy.

Practical Tips:

- Transparent Pricing: Display prices for all products and services.
- Demonstrations: Show how a product works, especially for health devices like blood pressure monitors.
- Comparison Charts: If applicable, show how your services or products compare to competitors.
- Warm Welcome: Train staff to greet every customer warmly and offer assistance without being pushy.

6. Purchase: Turning First-Timers into Fans

Congratulations! They've made their first purchase. Now, it's time to ensure they keep coming back.

Practical Tips:

- Thank You Notes: Include a handwritten note with first-time purchases or deliveries.
- Feedback Requests: Ask for feedback on their experience and show that you value their opinion.
- **Stay Connected:** Send occasional updates about promotions, new services, or health tips.
- Upselling & Cross-Selling: Recommend complementary products or services during their visit.



The Road Ahead

The pharmacy growth funnel isn't just a theory—it's a guide to help you create meaningful connections with your customers. By focusing on each stage and implementing these tips, you can turn curious passersby into loyal advocates for your pharmacy.

Start small. Choose one tip to try this week and build from there. With consistent effort, your pharmacy will not only grow—it will thrive.

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Turn Website Visitors Into Buyers: Proven CTA Strategies for Pharmacies

BY THE CHEMIST

Imagine this: you have spent time and money creating an excellent pharmacy website. The design is clean, the information is helpful, and there are visitors. But there is a problem—they are just browsing. They leave without making a purchase, signing up, or even contacting you. Frustrating, right? Here is the good news: the right Call-to-Action (CTA) can turn those visitors into buyers.

Let us explore practical CTA strategies ranked by their effectiveness. Let us dive in.

"... leave without making a purchase..."



1. Offer a Clear and Irresistible Value

The best CTAs answer every customer's question: "What is in it for me?" Your CTA should focus on a clear benefit. For example:

- Instead of "Click Here," say "Get 10% Off Your First Purchase."
- Replace "Sign Up" with "Join Our Free Loyalty Program for Exclusive Discounts."

Why it works: People are likelier to act when they see a direct reward. Highlight savings, convenience, or health benefits to grab their attention.

How to implement: Review your website and identify key places to add CTAs. Your homepage, product pages, and blog posts are great starting points. Use action-oriented words that focus on what the customer is gaining.

2. Use CTAs That Solve Problems

Pharmacies are in the business of solving health issues. Your CTAs can reflect that by addressing common pain points. For example:

- "Struggling with Allergies? Shop Relief Now."
- "Tired of Running Out of Medication? Set Up Auto-Refills Today."

Why it works: Customers are likelier to trust you when they feel understood. A problemsolving CTA builds an emotional connection.

How to implement: Consider the most common concerns of your customers and tailor your CTAs to address them. For added credibility, use testimonials or reviews alongside the CTA.

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3. Create a Sense of Urgency

A little urgency can push visitors to act faster. Phrases like "limited time" or "while supplies last" create FOMO (fear of missing out). Examples include:

- xamples include:
- "Order Today for Same-Day Delivery!"
- "Only 5 Left in Stock—Buy Now!"

Why it works: People do not like to miss out on opportunities, and urgency makes them feel like they need to act now.

How to implement: Use countdown timers or emphasize deadlines for promotions. Ensure the urgency is genuine, as false claims can hurt your reputation.

4. Personalize Your CTAs

Generic CTAs can feel cold. Personalized CTAs, on the other hand, can increase engagement. Use phrases like:

- "Hi [Name], Ready to Save on Your Prescription?"
- "Welcome Back! Refill Your Prescription in One Click."

Why it works: Personalization makes customers feel valued. It shows that you know and care about them.

How to implement: If your website allows user accounts, leverage the data to create tailored experiences. Even simple touches, like using location-based CTAs ("Get Free Delivery in [City]!"), can make a big difference.

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SALES: TURN WEBSITE VISITORS INTO BUYERS: PROVEN CTA STRATEGIES FOR PHARMACIES



HURRY!
OFFER ENDS IN
2 HOURS

5. Make CTAs Visually Appealing

A great CTA is about the words and how it looks. Design matters! Your CTA buttons should:

- Stand out with bold colors that contrast with the background of your website.
- Be easy to click, especially on mobile devices.
- Use readable fonts and large sizes.

Why it works: A visually appealing CTA draws the eye and invites action. People should not have to search for the next step—it should be obvious.

How to implement: Test different designs for your CTAs. A/B testing (comparing two versions) can help you identify what works best for your audience.

6. Keep It Simple and Focused

Too many options can overwhelm your visitors. A single, clear CTA per page often works better than multiple competing ones. For example:

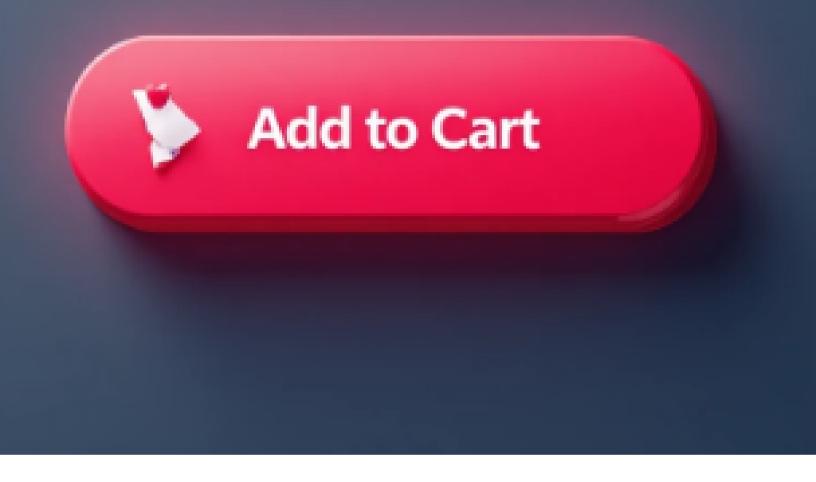
- On your homepage: "Sign Up for Free Delivery."
- On a product page: "Add to Cart."

Why it works: Simplicity removes decision fatigue and makes it easier for visitors to take the desired action.

How to implement: Audit your website and remove unnecessary CTAs. Focus on one primary action per page and ensure it aligns with your business goals.

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SALES: TURN WEBSITE VISITORS INTO BUYERS: PROVEN CTA STRATEGIES FOR PHARMACIES



7. Leverage Social Proof

CTAs accompanied by social proof can be very Your website is a powerful tool for growing persuasive. Examples include:

- "Join 1,000+ Happy Customers—Shop Now."
- "Rated 5 Stars by Your Neighbors—Get Your Cold Medicine Today."

Why it works: Social proof builds trust. People Your goal is to guide visitors toward actions are more likely to act when they see others have already done so.

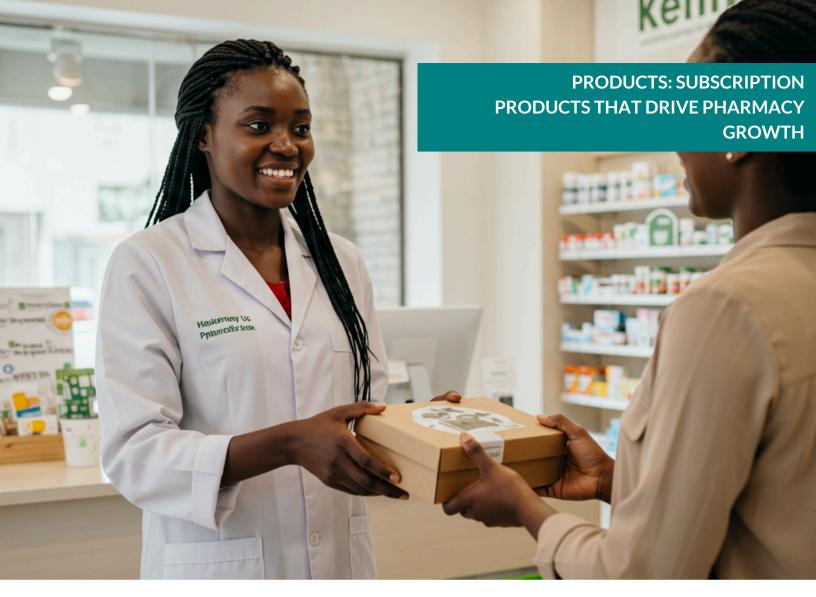
How to implement: Highlight reviews, testimonials, or the number of customers served alongside your CTAs. Use real numbers and authentic feedback to build credibility.

Start Turning Visitors Into Buyers

your pharmacy. Without effective CTAs, you are leaving money on the table. Start by identifying one or two strategies from this list and test them on your site. Remember, small changes can make a big difference.

that benefit them and your pharmacy. With the right CTAs, you can turn casual browsers into loyal customers. Ready to give it a try? Go ahead-take action now!

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Subscription Products That Drive Pharmacy Growth

BY THE CHEMIST

Community pharmacies have a unique opportunity to boost revenue and customer loyalty with subscription products.

These recurring packages and services generate a steady cash flow for your pharmacy through regular customer payments. Think about it – your customers love convenience, and subscriptions are the perfect way to give them just that.

In this article, we will look at subscription ideas your pharmacy can adopt and how to implement them successfully. By the end, you will have practical tips for offering subscriptions that drive growth.

"... a steady cash flow for your pharmacy..."

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1. Period Packs

For many women, running out of period essentials like sanitary pads, tampons, or pain relief medication is a monthly hassle. Your pharmacy can solve this with a "Period Pack" subscription. Here is how it can work:

- What to Include: Sanitary products, pain relief tablets, heating pads, and a treat like healthy chocolate.
- How to Offer It: Allow customers to choose their preferred products and set delivery dates that match their cycle.
- Why It Works: Customers save time, never run out of essentials, and appreciate the personalized touch.

2. Baby Milk and Essentials Subscription

Infant parents need baby formula, diapers, and other essentials regularly. A subscription service that delivers these products can be a game-changer for busy families.

- What to Include: Baby formula, diapers, wipes, rash cream, and other baby care products.
- How to Offer It: Let parents pick their needs and adjust their subscriptions as their baby grows.
- Why It Works: It eliminates last-minute store trips, saving parents time and stress.

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3. Chronic Medication Subscriptions

Many customers rely on long-term medication Skincare is often a daily ritual. Customers love for conditions like diabetes, hypertension, or asthma. Subscriptions ensure they never miss a dose.

- What to Include: Regular medication refills, plus optional add-ons like health supplements or a pill organizer.
- send reminders for refills and offer delivery services.
- Why It Works: Customers feel cared for and are less likely to switch to another pharmacy.

4. Skincare Routine Bundles

the consistency of their favorite products. Offer subscription bundles for popular skincare lines.

- What to Include: Cleansers, moisturizers, sunscreens, and even specialty items like acne treatments.
- How to Offer It: Work with your system to How to Offer It: Collaborate with trusted skincare brands to create packages for different skin types.
 - Why It Works: Customers can stick to their routine without worrying about running out of products.

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Expand Your Pharmacy Revenue with the 7-Day AM/PM Pill Box

Boost Sales and Client Satisfaction

- Increase your pharmacy's revenue streams effortlessly.
- Enhance customer loyalty and satisfaction with a practical, daily-use product.

Ensure Medication Adherence

- Help your clients manage their medication schedules effectively and conveniently.
- Improve health outcomes with easy-to-use, organized pill boxes.

Special Offer: Limited-Time Only

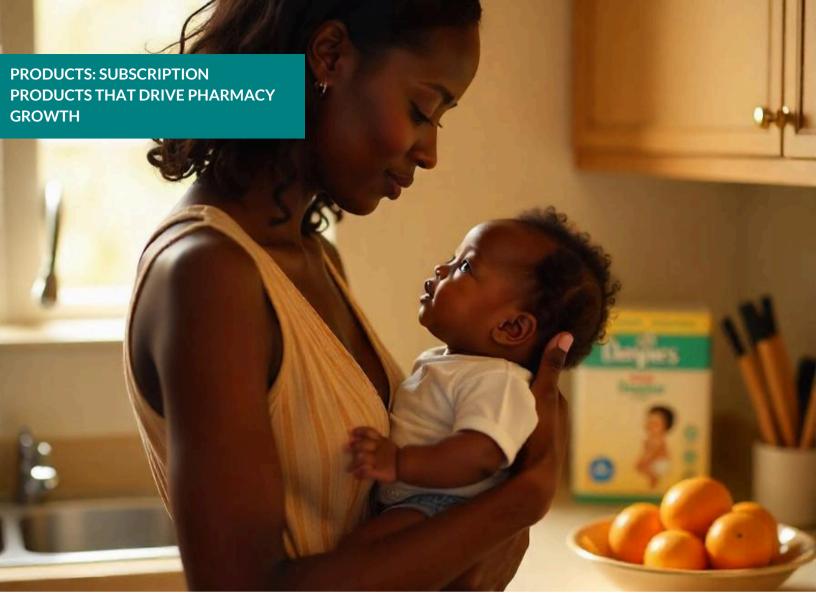
- Receive a 10% discount on your first purchase when you use the discount code "THECHEMIST"!
- Enjoy free shipping on all orders placed this month*

*Terms & Conditions Apply





NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CHEMIST APP



5. Wellness and Immunity Packs

As more people prioritize health, a monthly subscription for vitamins, supplements, and immune boosters can tap into this growing trend.

- What to Include: Multivitamins, vitamin C, zinc supplements, and herbal teas.
- How to Offer It: Include seasonal variations, like extra immune boosters during the cold season.
- Why It Works: You position your pharmacy as a partner in their wellness journey.

"... tap into this growing trend."

Practical Steps to Get Started

Ready to introduce subscription products? Here is a simple guide to make it happen:

- 1. **Start Small:** Pick one or two subscription ideas that match your customer base.
- 2. Engage Your Customers: Use surveys or in-pharmacy chats to determine what they would like in a subscription.
- 3. Leverage Technology: Use apps or simple software to manage orders, payments, and delivery schedules.
- 4. **Promote Your Subscriptions:** Highlight them on your website, WhatsApp channel, and in-store posters.
- 5. Offer Flexibility: Let customers pause, cancel, or customize their subscriptions easily.

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The Subscription Advantage for Pharmacies

Subscriptions are not just about convenience for your customers; they are about building relationships. Customers are likelier to stay loyal to your pharmacy when they know they can count on you for consistent service.

Start small, listen to your customers, and grow your subscription offerings over time. With the right approach, subscriptions can become a reliable source of income and make your pharmacy a trusted part of the community.

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How to Build a Pharmacy You Can Sell

BY THE CHEMIST

Imagine this: your pharmacy is thriving.
Customers trust you, your staff is efficient, and your profits are consistent. Imagine receiving an offer to sell your business at a price that secures your future. Would you be ready?
Building a pharmacy you can sell is not just about preparing to leave; it is about creating a business that is valuable, sustainable, and attractive. Let us explore how to do that, step by step.

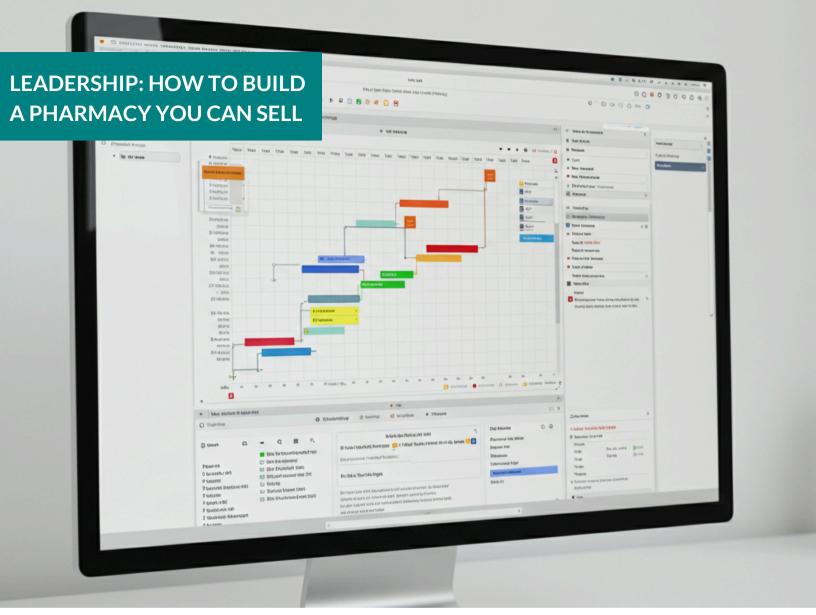
1. Run Your Pharmacy Like a Business, Not Just a Job

Many pharmacy owners get so involved in the daily grind that their business depends entirely on them. Buyers look for companies, not jobs. They want a pharmacy that can run smoothly without you.

Start by creating systems for everything—from managing inventory to handling customer complaints. Document these processes and train your staff to follow them. A pharmacy that runs efficiently in your absence is far more valuable.

Takeaway: Build systems and empower your team to manage daily operations.

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2. Build a Strong Customer Base

A pharmacy with a loyal customer base is highly desirable to buyers. Loyalty programs, excellent customer service, and consistent communication can help you grow and retain customers.

Consider offering services like medication reminders, health consultations, or home delivery for chronic conditions. These services these numbers to ensure your pharmacy is add value for your customers and make your pharmacy stand out.

Takeaway: Focus on retaining customers through numbers inside out. exceptional service and value-added programs.

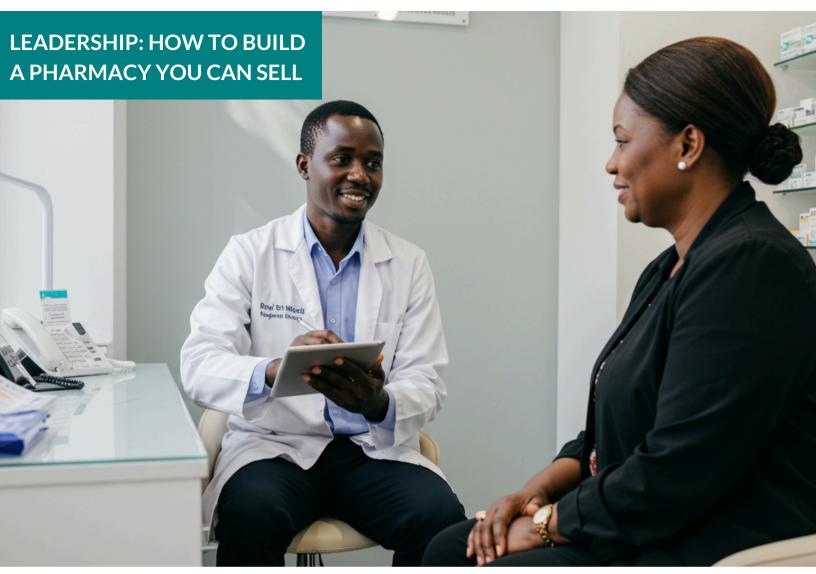
3. Get Your Financials in Order

Your customers are your most valuable asset. Buyers will want a clear picture of your pharmacy's financial health. You need clean financial statements, accurate records, and a strong understanding of your key metrics to achieve this.

> Calculate and track financial ratios such as gross profit margin, inventory turnover, and customer retention rate. Regularly review profitable and efficient.

Takeaway: Keep your books clean and know your

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4. Diversify Your Income Streams

Pharmacies with multiple income streams are less risky for buyers. Think about expanding beyond selling medications. You could introduce over-the-counter products, health screenings, wellness workshops, or subscription plans for chronic medication.

These additional revenue streams make your pharmacy more profitable and appealing to potential buyers.

Takeaway: Expand your services to create multiple streams of income.

5. Invest in Your Store's Appearance

First impressions matter. A clean, modern, and well-organized pharmacy attracts both customers and buyers. Pay attention to your layout, signage, and even the lighting.

Consider upgrades like repainting walls, reorganizing shelves, or creating a dedicated consultation space. These changes can make your pharmacy feel more inviting and professional.

Takeaway: Make your store look as good as it performs.

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6. Protect Your Reputation

Your pharmacy's reputation is priceless. Buyers will look at online reviews, customer feedback, and your standing in the community.

Encourage satisfied customers to leave positive reviews online. Handle complaints promptly and professionally. And remember, you cannot buy a good reputation—it has to be earned.

Takeaway: Maintain an excellent reputation both online and offline.

7. Plan for Your Exit Early

Selling a pharmacy does not happen overnight. Start preparing at least three to five years in advance. The period gives you time to strengthen your business, fix weak areas, and find the right buyer.

Speak to experts like accountants, business brokers, and lawyers specializing in pharmacy sales. They will guide you through the process and help you maximize the value of your business.

Takeaway: Prepare early to ensure a smooth and profitable sale.

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The Emotional Side of Selling

Building a sellable pharmacy involves both business considerations and a significant emotional investment. You have poured your time, energy, and passion into your pharmacy. Preparing to sell means thinking about its future without you. Create something so compelling that others want to be part of it.

Take pride in building a pharmacy that serves your community well today and will continue to do so tomorrow. Whether you are selling next year or a decade from now, every step you take now increases the value of your pharmacy—and secures your legacy.

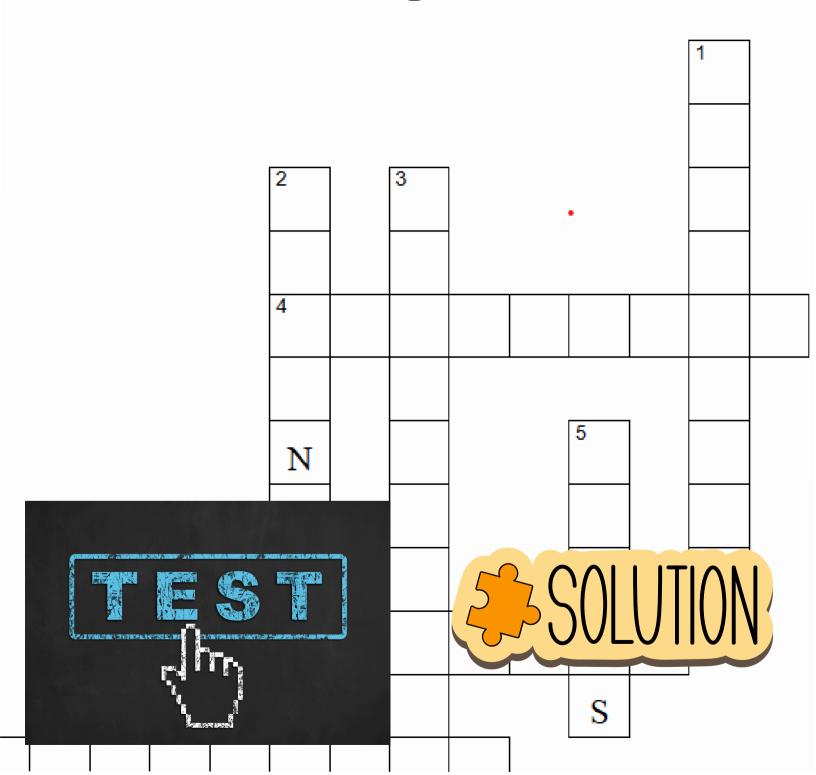
Ready to Get Started?

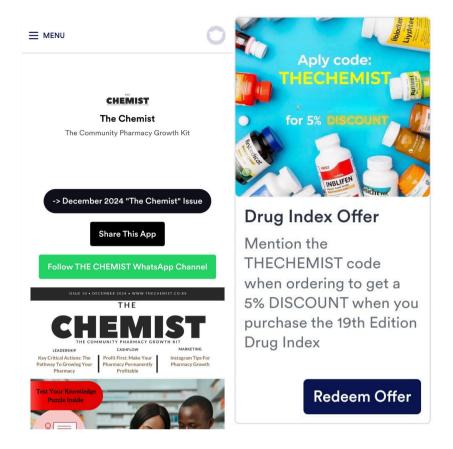
The best time to start preparing is now. Begin by focusing on just one area, like documenting your systems or reviewing your finances. Each small step gets you closer to building a pharmacy that is not only successful but also sellable.

Remember: A well-run pharmacy is not just a place to sell medications. It is a business, an asset, and an opportunity. Build it well, and you will be ready to sell it confidently when the time comes.

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Levonorgestrel





Introducing The Chemist Web App!

Your go-to platform growing your community pharmacy is now available on the web! Access The Chemist magazine, participate in quizzes, and stay updated with the latest industry news — all at your fingertips.

Exclusive Offer!

Get **5% OFF** the 19th Edition of the East African Drug Index.

Use code: THECHEMIST when placing your order.

Key Features of The Chemist Web App:

- Access the latest issue of The Chemist magazine
- Stay updated on trends and best practices for growing your community pharmacy
- Test your knowledge with interactive quizzes
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