

Clinigen work with healthcare professionals around the world, helping them to access critical medicines for their patients.

WE'RE CONNECTING WITH HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



LOVE YOUR PHARMACIST AWARDS

In 2021 Clinigen hosted the inaugural Love Your Pharmacist Awards. The awards were created to recognise and celebrate the significant role pharmacists play in enabling better access to medicines and improving people's lives. To learn more about the awards visit www.loveyourpharmacist.com

CLINIGEN MAKE OUR ROLE AS CLINICAL PHARMACISTS SO MUCH EASIER AND ENABLE US TO PROVIDE BETTER HEALTHCARE.

A **CLINICAL PHARMACIST**
Johannesburg, South Africa

My role is to get hold of medications which are not available in South Africa – either because they have run out of stock or because they are not registered. Most of the drugs I support are unapproved and I need to work with the infectious disease physician to try and import the medication from another country.

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COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

WHAT LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES DO YOU COME ACROSS IN TRYING TO ACCESS CRITICAL MEDICINES – AND HAS COVID-19 MADE THIS MORE CHALLENGING?

Some of the local manufacturers have been running out of stock of key medicines we use. One of our most used medicines comes in two available brands but there have been challenges around the availability which means we have to swap from one brand to another, which is not ideal. Alongside this, due to COVID-19, there have been staff shortages at the port authorities which adds another challenge in terms of timelines to import a therapy.

WHY IS A COMPANY LIKE CLINIGEN IMPORTANT TO YOU IN YOUR ROLE AND HOW HAVE THEY HELPED ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

Working with Clinigen has been a great help. One medicine in particular which is not yet registered in South Africa is a really important drug to treating multi-drug-resistant infections. It has been great being able to work with Clinigen to import that medicine and has meant access to a medicine we otherwise wouldn't have.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER EXAMPLES OF WHERE CLINIGEN MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO YOU AND YOUR PATIENTS?

In transplant there are so many specialist medicines available in Europe that we don't have access to – it is really valuable to have access to these medicines. It makes our role as clinical pharmacists so much easier and enables us to provide better healthcare.

CLINIGEN HAVE THE CONNECTIONS WITH THE PHARMA COMPANIES AND ARE ABLE TO LOOK AT PATHWAYS TO GET THESE MEDICINES INTO AUSTRALIA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

A **SENIOR PHARMACIST**
Queensland, Australia

I am a senior pharmacist looking after the outpatient oncology patients providing services and education. Also, when physicians prescribe weird and wonderful medication that is not readily available in Australia, it falls on me to get hold of these medicines.

There have been a number of medications that have been hard to access in Australia – even in some cases for medication that is registered in Australia. It can often be difficult and time consuming getting hold of the manufacturers ourselves to understand if we can import the medicine. During COVID-19 there have also been longer delays at customs which adds further challenges for the treating of patients on time.

Clinigen have the connections with the pharma companies and are able to look at pathways to get these medicines into Australia from other countries. This has meant patients have got treatment that they otherwise would not have.

In one example we had a patient in her early 30s with breast cancer who had already gone through several lines of treatment. There was a new unapproved medicine we wanted to import into Australia, but we were not able to source. Clinigen were able to work directly with the pharma company to import the medication which made a huge difference for the mental health of the patient who now has hope about the future. For us as pharmacists, Clinigen make our lives significantly easier on a daily basis – they have reduced the amount of work and removed the complexities in trying to access medicines.