

The Times They Are A-Changin'

Category: At the Pharmacy

written by Pris Campbell | May 3, 2024

In the tiny town where I grew up, we had two pharmacies. Both pharmacists knew you, your family, and what your general medical needs were. If your car wasn't available—common in those one-car-per-family days—they would run your medicine out to your house at their first opportunity. In an emergency, they would open the pharmacy at night.

Of course those days are gone forever, and pharmacists have far more paperwork to do nowadays. The pharmacy chain we've used for years has solved the problem by no longer giving patients access to a pharmacist. I no longer know who my pharmacist is or have someone to ask if a certain pill can be safely cut in half, for example. My only option is to listen to a long computerized message, leave a voicemail on a machine, and hope that someone will get back to me. I've done this twice. I received a return call once but not the other time. I got the call-back because I said my question was important and I would ask my doctor to start using the Costco pharmacy if no one called me back.

I can still speak to a pharmacist at Costco, but its distance from where I live makes it harder to pick up my meds. I miss feeling like an important human being to my pharmacist and am still deciding whether to change pharmacies when I have my routine doctor's appointment in June.

Pris Campbell

Lake Worth, Florida