

## VA Center for Medication Safety

The Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE) is a comprehensive pharmacovigilance program that has developed and implemented numerous national programs to monitor the safe and effective use of medications in VA. The VA MedSAFE collaborates closely with the FDA to evaluate the significance of known adverse drug events (ADEs), in addition to identifying and tracking new and emerging drug safety issues. As such, VA MedSAFE conducts drug safety and monitoring efforts with the rigor of a regulatory body while maintaining the access and utilization required for a health care system. Additionally, VA MedSAFE collaborates with the VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (VA PBM) to undertake quality improvement and safety initiatives that ultimately monitor and determine the clinical impact of formulary decisions on the VA system nationwide. For more information on VA MedSAFE and VA PBM, visit the links below:

<http://www.pbm.va.gov/VACenterForMedicationSafety-Index.aspx>  
<http://www.pbm.va.gov>

### PURPOSE

To prepare pharmacist clinicians with proficiencies in the planning, implementation and assessment of safe medication use practices within an integrated healthcare delivery system, managed care setting and/or drug safety oversight group.

Residents from the program will be qualified for any of the following positions:

- Pharmacy medication safety officer within a hospital or managed care organization
- Pharmacy leader responsible for monitoring and resolving ADEs, as well as providing targeted education, in a health system, managed care area or drug safety oversight agency (e.g., ISMP, FDA, CDC)
- Drug use management pharmacist
- Study researcher in an industry setting
- Research faculty in academia
- Fellowships in medication-use safety

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Function as an effective leader and authoritative resource on medication use safety
- Develop a vision and conduct the planning in pursuit of an ideal safe medication use system for an organization
- Represent the medication use safety perspective when considering the design of technology and automation systems
- Manage changes in the medication use system
- Collect medication use data and use appropriate data analysis techniques to identify needed improvements in the medication use system
- Conduct medication use safety research

## ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

- Longitudinal research project and publication worthy manuscript
- Longitudinal pharmacovigilance projects
- Data validation and data analyses projects for VA MedSAFE/VA PBM & FDA
- ADE report evaluations
- Internal improvements in ADE reporting
- Education to health care professionals on medication use safety issues and initiatives
- National medication utilization evaluations at multiple stages of development & release
- Ten medication safety newsletter articles and distribution of timely drug safety alerts
- Regional and medical center level medication use safety initiatives
- Presentation at a regional or national professional meeting
- Formal seminar of interview quality
- Professional portfolio



## ROTATIONS

### **REQUIRED:**

- Pharmacovigilance
- Medication Use Safety Research
- National Medication Use Evaluations
- Medication Use Evaluation Trackers
- VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System
- National Drug Safety Communications
- VISN and Medical Center Level Medication Use Safety Initiatives

### **ELECTIVE:**

- Medication Use Safety Informatics
- Medication Use Safety Administration
- Pharmacoepidemiology Research
- Center for Drug Evaluation and Research /Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at FDA
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- And many more!

## SALARY & BENEFITS

- Estimated Stipend: \$48,789
- 13 Vacation Days
- 13 Sick Days
- ~10 Paid Federal Holidays
- Healthcare Benefits
- On-site Gym Access
- Free Parking

**Positions available:** One (1) Resident  
**Match Code:** 634077  
**Starting Date:** July 1<sup>st</sup>



## QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Degree
- Completion of a first year residency
- U.S. Citizenship
- Pharmacy Licensure in one of the States or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia

## APPLICATION

- Letter of Intent/Personal Statement
- Three (3) Letters of Reference
- Curriculum Vitae
- Pharmacy School Transcripts
- Onsite Interview
- Presentation (20 minutes) for Interview

This program participates in PHORCAS:

<https://portal.phorcas.org/applicants15/index.cgi?m=home>

**Applications must be submitted by:  
January 20, 2017**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dr. Aspinall is a clinical pharmacy specialist with VA MedSAFE and a core faculty member of the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is also an Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh. She has successfully mentored numerous pharmacy residents throughout her career with the VA as both a residency program director and preceptor. As a well-trained researcher in the areas of pharmacoconomics, health services, and outcomes research, her work with VA MedSAFE focuses on the safe, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medications.



## LOCATION

Situated just outside of the western city limits of Chicago, accessible by public transportation, and less than a half-hour drive from Downtown Chicago, the VA MedSAFE and PBM offices are located at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois.

### **National Office**

1<sup>st</sup> Avenue-1 Block North of Cermak Road  
Building 37; Room 139  
Hines, Illinois 60141



# PGY2

**MEDICATION USE SAFETY**

**Pharmacovigilance.**

**Outcomes.**

**Medication Safety.**



VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services [PBM]  
& Center for Medication Safety [VA MedSAFE]

[www.pbm.va.gov](http://www.pbm.va.gov)