



## Erie VA Medical Center Pharmacy Residency

### What is a residency?

- A residency is a structured, directed, salaried postgraduate training program in pharmacy practice that typically lasts one year.
- A program that focuses on the development of competence, skills, and application of drug therapy knowledge in providing a broad scope of pharmaceutical services to patients.

### What are the advantages of doing a residency?

- Enhance your patient care skills across the continuum of care
- Gain a competitive advantage in the job market
- Build networking opportunities
- Improve your career planning
- Gain a clearer picture of what type of practice best suits you
- Obtain assistance from committed preceptors to further define your professional goals
- Further develop your professional vision
- Learn skills and habits for life-long learning

### Why do a residency at the Erie VA Medical Center?

- To participate in a flexible program
- To set and meet your own goals
- To work with experienced pharmacists who are doing what you would like to do
- To have the opportunity to provide patient care services across the continuum of care with an increasing level of independence through the year
- To learn to balance work and life

### Purpose of the Erie VA PGY 1 Pharmacy Residency:

- Help residents develop their patient care skills
- Enhance their knowledge
- Provide excellent pharmacotherapy for patients.
- Train pharmacists to provide pharmaceutical care
  - primarily to ambulatory, geriatric and long term care patients, and across the continuum of care
- Participate as a member of the health care team
- Provide education to patients
- Opportunity for patient contact throughout rotations
- Provide education to health professionals
- Learn to perform self-monitoring
- Demonstrate leadership
- Contribute to performance improvement
- Develop an approach to the profession that can lead to life-long learning and career satisfaction



## Rotations and Requirements

- Orientation
- Inpatient
- Outpatient
- Ambulatory Care
- Medicine/Surgery
- Long Term Care
- Practice Management
- Drug Information
- Performance Improvement
- Electives
- Staffing/service
- Project



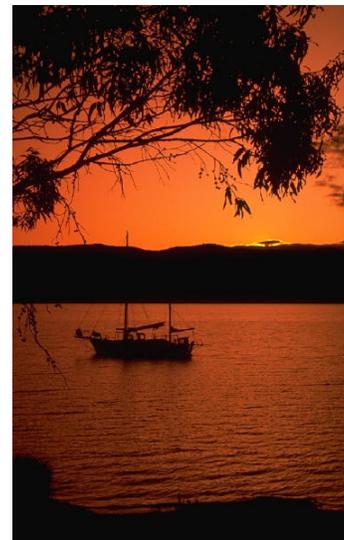
## **Resources and Education**

- Medical library
- Access to VA national resources
- Local and national CE programs
- Satellite network
- Internet access at your desktop
- National clinical guidelines at your desktop computer
- LECOM School of Pharmacy
  - Continuing education
  - Networking



## **Technology and Support**

- Experienced certified pharmacy technicians
- Electronic medical record
- Computerized physician order entry
- Remote access to patient's clinical data
- Computerized pharmacy system—inpatient and outpatient systems linked
- Barcode technology for medication administration



## **Living in Erie**

- Year-round outdoor recreational activities
- Presque Isle, 7 miles of sandy beach
- Boating on Lake Erie
- Small town atmosphere with big city amenities
- Population 250,000 in the metropolitan area
- Five local colleges/universities
- Within 100 miles of Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo
- <http://www.eriepa.com/>



**Application requirements:**

- U.S. citizenship
- VA application
- Participation in Residency Matching Program
- Letter of interest with explanation of candidate's goals
- Curriculum vitae
- 3 letters of reference (see [Recommendationform](#))
- Transcripts for all college credits

**Interview Notification Date**

- Candidates will be notified of interview status no later than February 15.

**Match Rules**

- This residency site agrees that no person at this site will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any residency applicant.

**Appointment of applicants**

- Appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of a physical exam, including negative drug test. Applicants must meet requirements for federal employment. Residents are required to obtain a pharmacist's license in any state within 2 months of appointment.

**Application deadline:** January 15

**Start date:** beginning of pay period closest to July 1

**Contact:** Margaret M. Chrymko, Pharm.D.

Pharmacy Residency Program Director

Erie VA Medical Center, 135 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16504

[Margaret.Chrymko@va.gov](mailto:Margaret.Chrymko@va.gov)

814-860-2458 or 800-274-8387, ext. 2458

Visit our website at <http://www1.va.gov/erie/>

The VA is an equal opportunity employer.

Any candidate requiring special accommodation is requested to inform the program director 90 days prior to the scheduled start date for the program.





## Erie VA Medical Center

### PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

Contact:

Margaret Chrymko, Pharm.D.

[Margaret.Chrymko@med.va.gov](mailto:Margaret.Chrymko@med.va.gov)

135 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street

Erie, PA 16504

814-860-2458

The PGY1 Pharmacy Residency is designed to provide residents with experiences that will enhance their knowledge and skills so they can provide excellent pharmacotherapy for patients. The nature of the patient population in the VA setting allows for continuity of care across the continuum. Pharmacists practice in the inpatient, long-term care and ambulatory settings. Opportunities for patient contact are available throughout the rotations.

The purpose of the PGY1 pharmacy residency is to train pharmacists to provide pharmaceutical care, primarily to ambulatory, geriatric and long term care patients, participate as a member of the health care team, and provide education to patients and health professionals. In addition, residents will learn to perform self-monitoring and demonstrate leadership through contributing to performance improvement. Residents will be encouraged to develop an approach to the profession that can lead to life-long learning and career satisfaction

#### Rotations and Requirements

Orientation	1 week plus at the beginning of each rotation
Inpatient	2 weeks
Outpatient	4 weeks
Ambulatory Care	12 weeks and longitudinal
Medicine/Surgery	6 weeks
Long Term Care	8 weeks
Practice Management	1 week plus longitudinal (throughout the year)
Drug Information	Longitudinal (throughout the year)
Performance Improvement	Longitudinal (throughout the year)
Electives	16 weeks
Vacation	13 days
Holidays	6 holidays off
Travel	2 weeks
Staffing/service	Average of 16 hours per month
Project	Elective time may be used as needed

**Erie VA Medical Center  
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency**

**Summary of Rotations and Requirements**

**Inpatient**—Orientation to drug distribution systems, computer system, unit dose and IV admixture program.

**Outpatient**—Orientation to outpatient prescription processing, computer system, medication counseling.

**Ambulatory Care**—Experience in primary care, diabetes, hepatitis and pharmacist-run anticoagulation clinics. Opportunities in shared medical appointments, support groups, diabetes education and home-based primary care. Significant direct interaction with patients, nurses, and providers.

**Long Term Care/Geriatrics**—participate in the pharmacotherapy of long term care residents, interact with interdisciplinary team members including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, chaplains, physical, occupational and respiratory therapists. Experience also includes short-term rehabilitation needs, and geriatric evaluation and management programs. Opportunity for direct interaction with patients.

**Medicine/Surgery**—participate in the management of the pharmacotherapy in the ICU and acute care unit. Be part of the interdisciplinary team including physicians, medical students and residents, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, chaplains and utilization review.

**Drug Information**—will be provided throughout all rotations. It will be primarily based on issues in the patients served by the providers on the team. Residents will also participate in drug use evaluation from the choice of the reviews through the development of criteria, collection and analysis of data, and presentation of results.

**Practice Management**—Residents will participate in various aspects of pharmacy management at appropriate times throughout the year. Committee involvement and clinical informatics will also be a part of this longitudinal experience and can be tailored to a resident's interests. Residents will participate in Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meetings on the local and VISN level.

**Performance Improvement**—Residents will participate in performance improvement as appropriate throughout the year. The focus of residents' performance improvement activities will be safe and cost-effective pharmacotherapy. Opportunity to work with the Office of Performance and Quality will be available.

**Clinical Informatics Elective**—Residents will learn how safe medication practices are supported through the electronic medication order process, i.e. creating complete and efficient order sets, templates, consults and provision of drug information at the point of use, etc.

**Academia Elective**—Resident will have the opportunity to teach in didactic and practice settings.

**Project**—a major project of benefit to the institution will be undertaken by the resident. The resident will have input into the selection of the project and is invited to make suggestions for potential projects. Elective time may be scheduled to allow the resident adequate time for a substantial project without compromising other rotations. A manuscript of publishable quality must be submitted to the Residency Program Director prior to receiving a Residency Certificate.

**Elective time**—allows the resident to spend a larger amount of time in the areas of his or her greatest interest and need. If the resident desires a particular emphasis, the large amount of elective time will allow concentration in that area. Elective experiences can be additional time in any of the experiences above or other experiences based on the residents needs and interests. Elective time may be scheduled for the major project and for small projects as needed.



Relative to persons of similar background, training and professional interests, how would you rate this applicant for each of the following characteristics? Please place an X under the rating column which best describes the applicant.

CHARACTERISTICS EVALUATED	UPPER 10%	UPPER 25%	UPPER 50%	LOWER 50%	NO BASIS FOR JUDGMENT
Academic ability					
Quality of work					
Written communication skills					
Oral communication skills					
Leadership skills					
Industriousness and perseverance					
Initiative and motivation					
Assertiveness					
Cooperativeness					
Ability to organize and manage time					
Ability to work with supervisors					
Ability to work with peers					
Ability to work with patients					
Dependability					
Resourcefulness and originality					
Willingness to accept constructive criticism					
Personal appearance and professional demeanor					
Commitment to professional practice					
Emotional stability and maturity					
Enthusiasm					
Integrity					

Recommendation concerning admission (check one):

- I highly recommend this applicant.
- I recommend this applicant.

- I recommend this applicant, but with some reservation.
- I am not able to recommend this applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Recommender

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name-typed or printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title and affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address or P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number