

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop advanced knowledge and skills in medication safety and pharmacovigilance in the federal managed care setting.
- Function as an effective leader for medication safety.
- Serve as an authoritative resource on medication safety and pharmacovigilance for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).
- Develop an understanding of the components of a safe medication system.
- Communicate medication safety needs to VHA for inclusion in national, regional, and facility operations.
- Conduct planning for pursuit of VHA's vision of a safe medication system and optimal pharmacovigilance and postmarketing surveillance efforts.
- Collect medication safety data and use appropriate data analysis techniques to improve care and identify needed improvements in the medication system.
- Manage changes in the medication system.
- Design, conduct, coordinate, and evaluate medication safety research.
- Understand present and future trends influencing healthcare and medication safety within the VHA.

The medication safety and outcomes assessment resident will be responsible for the development and completion of a minimum of 2 formal residency projects suitable for implementation and publication. The resident will be members of multidisciplinary health plan committees, interact daily with other healthcare professionals, participate in journal clubs, and present at regional and national meetings. Education will include practical training in evidence-based medicine, statistics, pharmacoepidemiology, and healthcare economics. Out-of-state and in-state travel is required. The resident must be a self-motivated and independent learner. The resident must be able to function autonomously.

• *Accreditation Pending* •

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Residency Type:	2 nd year; Medication Safety & Outcomes Assessment
Duration of Program:	12 Months
Number of Positions:	2
Application Deadline:	January 8, 2009
Interview:	Required; Onsite
Match Code:	614007
Starting Date:	July 1, 2009

EDUCATIONAL/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Degree
- Completion of first year residency or equivalent experience
- U.S. Citizenship
- Letter of Intent
- Three (3) Letters of Reference
- Curriculum Vitae
- Pharmacy School Transcripts

SALARY & BENEFITS

- Estimated Stipend: \$44,220
- 13 Vacation Days
- 13 Sick Days
- ~10 Paid Federal Holidays
- Healthcare Benefits
- Free Parking

LOCATION

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (PBM) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Medication Safety (VAMedSAFE) are located at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital. Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital is situated just outside the western city limits of Chicago and is less than a half-hour drive from Downtown Chicago using the Eisenhower Expressway. The campus is also accessible by public transportation.

PRIMARY PRECEPTOR INFORMATION

Francesca Cunningham, Pharm.D., is Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Medication Safety (VAMedSAFE) and Program Manager for Pharmacoepidemiologic and Outcomes Research at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (PBM). Dr. Cunningham monitors agency-wide medication use practices to identify and develop quality improvement and research efforts that support formulary maintenance, pharmacologic management guideline development, and other drug-related safety and appropriate prescribing issues within the VHA. Dr. Cunningham's areas of research interest include post-marketing surveillance on newly approved drug products, medication safety observational studies, disease-state management, prescribing trends at the individual practitioner level, pharmacologic management guideline impact strategies, and pharmaco-economic analyses. Dr. Cunningham has taken a lead role in VA over the years in interacting with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on various drug surveillance and medication safety efforts.

HOW TO APPLY

Please forward a one (1) – page letter/statement of intent, updated curriculum vitae, transcripts, and three (3) letters of recommendation to the point of contact below. Application materials are located online at: <http://www.pbm.va.gov/VACenterForMedicationSafety-PGY2Residency.aspx>

-OR-

<http://www.pbm.va.gov/VAPharmacyResidencyProgram.aspx>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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VA Center for Medication Safety

The VA Center for Medication Safety (VAMedSAFE) was funded in 2003 by the National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) and co-funded by the VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (PBM). VAMedSAFE accomplishments include: (1) Identifying, assessing, and preventing adverse drug events (ADEs) across the VA through increased interaction and intervention at the local and regional levels; (2) Developing a supportive drug safety surveillance system; (3) Developing the VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System (VA ADERS); and (4) Initiating an education program to instruct practitioners on newly identified ADEs and medication safety issues.

VAMedSAFE continues to improve drug prescribing and administration practices as well as to decrease inappropriate pharmaceutical use in the VA patient population via the following programs:

- **Risk Reduction**, which involves intervention on and education about known medication risks in order to advance prescribing practices, enhance safe pharmaceutical use and improve patient outcomes;
- **Risk Education**, which involves the development of background material/literature and the initiation of programs translatable into field-based efforts that improve the medication safety environment; and
- **Pharmacovigilance**, which involves the development of mechanisms to evaluate and confirm potential medication risks or errors that can be integrated with Risk Reduction efforts.

VAMedSAFE provides feedback and guidance regarding ADE data unique to each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), while translating research and published evidence into national policy through its cooperative arrangements with VISN Formulary Committees and Pharmacy leaders, the Medical Advisory Panel, as well as other departments within the VA.

VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services

The VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (PBM), established in 1995, manages pharmaceuticals and all related policies for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Its primary functions are to maintain the national formulary and promote, optimize, and assist VA practitioners with the safe and appropriate use of all medications. As part of this mission, the PBM engages in formulary development including assessment of drug safety and efficacy, non-formulary policy, writing pharmacologic management algorithms and drug criteria for use (available at www.pbm.va.gov), and evaluating and monitoring pharmaceutical outcomes.

The Outcomes Research section of the PBM is primarily responsible for Quality Improvement (QI) projects, of which safety initiatives are a large part. Also, pharmacoepidemiologic studies, through use of national spontaneous report databases, linked automated databases, and exploratory evaluations for identifying, assessing, and confirming ADEs, proactively identify and/or confirm possible therapeutic risks via epidemiological techniques. Furthermore, the National Medication Use Evaluation program applies continuous quality improvement methods to the drug use process with an emphasis on improving medication safety and optimizing patient outcomes. It is also considered a formulary system management technique by examining compliance with, deviations from, and effects of, national and local formulary decisions. Data generated from these and other evaluations assist formulary management and decision making efforts. The projects also help assess outcomes of formulary decisions.

PGY2 RESIDENCY: MEDICATION SAFETY & OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT



VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT
SERVICES (PBM)

&

CENTER FOR MEDICATION SAFETY
(VAMedSAFE)

HINES, ILLINOIS