

Loma Linda VA Healthcare System Pharmacy Practice Residency with an Emphasis in Primary Care

PURPOSE: The Pharmacy Practice Residency at Loma Linda VA Healthcare System is designed to provide a comprehensive educational and practical experience intended to introduce the resident to all phases of primary care pharmacy practice. Pharmacists completing the program will be competent to provide direct pharmaceutical care including prescribing and managing drug therapies. An exposure to a wide variety of health care specialty areas will ensure a marketable result with additional experience in education and professional development. Residents will demonstrate professional maturity by developing a personal philosophy of practice excellence, effective management of time, projects, interpersonal relationships and a commitment to professional competency.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY SERVICES:

The Department of Pharmacy Service is committed to providing advanced pharmaceutical care for patients, maintaining an atmosphere of positive interaction with all members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team, and fostering an environment for professional and personal excellence for pharmacy staff, residents, and students. Clinical specialists maintain active practices in cardiovascular, infectious disease, medicine, psychiatry, geriatric, and anticoagulation. The Pharmacy staff are actively involved in such activities as drug use evaluation, drug monitoring, and patient education. Complementary to the residency experience is an ongoing educational program for pharmacy staff development and integration of all phases of pharmacy practice.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Pharmacy Practice Residency is an ASHP accredited one year program with a curriculum designed to expose the resident to a variety of facets of pharmacy practice in the primary care setting. The resident will gain an appreciation of clinical practice, pharmacy management, hospital pharmacy administration, performance improvement, committee activities, and personnel issues required through rotations. Emphasis is placed on being responsible for patient drug therapy outcomes and documenting these outcomes. All major diseases are encountered including hypertension, diabetes, asthma/COPD, heart failure, hyperlipidemia, CAD/angina, thromboembolic disorders, gastrointestinal disease, arthritis, Parkinson's disease and psychiatric disorders. Residents receive training on disease clinics including Geriatrics, Anticoagulation, General Medicine, Lipid, Infectious Disease/HIV, Fall Prevention, and Psychiatric Clinic. Required rotations/experiences include ambulatory care, drug information, general medicine, administration/management. Elective rotations are intended to provide additional experience in specific areas of interest. Electives may be chosen from pediatrics, solid organ transplant, cardiology, cardiology transplant, psychiatry, infectious disease, geriatric, and oncology. Teaching experience is a major portion of the residency program. Residents are significantly involved in the teaching of fourth-year ambulatory care clerkships students on rotation at the Medical Center. Completion of a residency project involving research methodology, feasibility assessment and implementation of a pharmacy system or program is also required.

SITE: The Loma Linda VA Healthcare System is part of the Desert Pacific Healthcare Network, providing services to veterans in Southern California and Southern Nevada. Opened in 1977, this modern facility fulfills the agency's threefold mission of patient care, research and teaching. It is located in Loma Linda, California, only minutes from its major affiliate, the Loma Linda University. The Medical Center is named in the memory of Congressman Jerry L. Pettis, a Pacific World War II veteran, who worked diligently to locate the facility in Loma Linda. The Medical Center provides a wide variety of services through inpatient, outpatient and home care programs. The major bed services are Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, and Neurology. The facility has 142 acute care beds and a 108 nursing home care unit.

The Medical Center, in partnership with its affiliate Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Health Care, provide primary care at VA Community Based Clinics located in Victorville, Sun City, Corona, Upland, and Palm Desert.

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