

Core Rotation Descriptions

Orientation: Orientation is conducted both at the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) and in conjunction with the University Of Maryland School of Pharmacy. During this experience, the resident will complete the VA requirements for New Employee Orientation (NEO). The resident will be oriented to the Pharmacy Department Operations throughout the Medical Center via direct observation and participation with the Pharmacy Staff. The resident will also orient at the School of Pharmacy with activities including a new resident luncheon, introduction to Pharmacotherapy Rounds and an overview of the wide array of teaching opportunities and other elective activities.

Hospital Pharmacy: The Hospital Pharmacy experience teaches practical aspects of drug distribution and pharmaceutical care in a hospital setting. This rotation will build upon the skills learned during orientation to ensure the resident understands the VAMHCS' medication-use process and has basic understanding of all the services this department provides and supports. This Hospital Pharmacy Rotation includes the longitudinal monthly staffing requirement.

Internal Medicine: The goal of this rotation is to expose the resident to an independent patient care experience and a wide variety of disease states. The resident will work closely with an internal medicine team and other interdisciplinary team members to provide quality pharmaceutical care to internal medicine patients. The daily activities include rounding with the medical team, presenting patients to the preceptor, making medication interventions, providing discharge medication counseling and documenting patient care activities in the medical chart. Medication reconciliation will also play a predominant role. The resident may also make informal presentations to the medical team.

Cardiology: The goals and objectives of the Cardiology rotation are to further the resident's skills in patient monitoring, interaction with healthcare professionals, and patient counseling; and providing an in-depth knowledge base regarding common cardiology problems including coronary artery disease, heart failure, and arrhythmias. The resident will attend rounds and monitor patients admitted to the Cardiology service on a daily basis. Primary duties include interacting with medical and nursing staff to answer questions regarding medications and assist in medication selection/dosing to optimize the use of medications.

The resident may also prepare and present in-services on medications and/or medical therapy for the cardiology staff.

Critical Care: The Critical Care rotation is offered in either the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) or the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU). The goal of this rotation is to expose the resident to various topics in Critical Care Medicine and apply this knowledge to the veteran population. Daily activities include rounding with the critical care team, reviewing patients with the preceptor, and providing timely responses to drug information questions. In addition, the resident will become familiar with VA restriction criteria for medications, identify and report medication errors and adverse drug reactions. The resident will participate in the medication reconciliation process and provide a presentation to the critical care team.

Ambulatory Care: The goal of the ambulatory care experience is for the resident to develop their skills in pharmacotherapy and management of chronic disease states. This will be accomplished in collaboration with providers in primary care, sub-specialty, or pharmacy based clinics. Residents will have the opportunity to choose elective ambulatory clinics that will serve at the framework for this block rotation. A wide variety of VAMHCS Ambulatory Care Clinics are available for

the resident to choose from to tailor the resident's needs and interests for this block. VAMCHS ambulatory care clinics include but are not limited to the following: Chronic Pain Management, HIV/ Med Management, Cardiology, Immunization/Influenza, Renal, Diabetes, Geriatrics, Alzheimer's/ Dementia, Lipid Group, Smoking Cessation, Oncology, Heart Failure, Anticoagulation, EPO management and Ambulatory Care Clinics at our Community Based Outpatient Clinics.

Practice management: During this rotation the resident will be exposed to various areas of pharmacy administration and management. The resident may participate in various activities including Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, adverse drug event and medication error reporting, drug use evaluations (DUEs), quality improvement and safety programs, cost initiative programs, and non-formulary drug assessments. Other areas of responsibility may include policy and procedure updates, review of pharmacy budgetary activities, and conducting and leading pharmacy staff meetings.

Psychiatry: The inpatient psychiatry rotation is designed to give the resident a basic understanding of the pharmacotherapy and management of acute and chronic psychiatric disorders. The resident will work in collaboration with the health care team (psychiatrists, physician's assistants, nurses, and social

workers) to optimize medication use on the inpatient psychiatry units throughout the VAMHCS. The resident will become skilled in assessing appropriateness of drug therapy, application of pharmacokinetic principles, drug monitoring, and provision of drug information. Daily activities will focus on performing medication reconciliation, collecting medication histories, and providing patient education and discharge counseling.

Research: The resident is required to conduct a research project during the residency year. The topic must be approved by both the RPD and the Residency Advisory Committee. Assistance with navigating the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and VA R&D procedures is provided throughout the process. Residents are given dedicated time during orientation devoted to the development of the project. Residents are required to present at the Eastern States Conference for Residents and Preceptors. Residents must then prepare a manuscript of their project in publishable format as part of the requirements for successful completion of their residency.

Medication Safety: The resident will participate in the identification, reporting, and analysis of Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) throughout the residency year. ADRs will be entered into the VA national database (VA ADERS) on a monthly basis. In addition, the ADRs will be analyzed for probability and preventability and reported to the Pharmacy and

Therapeutics Committee monthly. When a clinically significant ADR is reported, the resident will participate in the Root Cause Analysis process to identify any corrections that should be made to prevent further incidents. The resident will work with Risk Management in identifying ADRs that will be forwarded for peer review and ADRs that were the result of a medication error.

