



# Department of Veterans Affairs-New York Harbor Healthcare System

## Pharmacy Practice Residency Program (PGY-1)

### Required Rotations

- Management
- Drug Information
- Primary Care
- Infectious Disease Clinic
- Internal Medicine
- Home Based Primary Care
- Anticoagulation Clinic (longitudinal)
- Smoking Cessation Clinic (longitudinal)

### Elective Rotations

- Psychiatry
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Pharmacy Benefits Management
- Research
- Oncology

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### General Information

The Pharmacy Practice Residency is a twelve-month program with a focus in ambulatory care. This program is designed for advanced training in patient care, assessing and planning drug therapy and professional communications in accordance with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) standards. Because each individual may have specific interests in different areas of pharmacy practice, this residency is geared to fulfill the individual needs of each pharmacy resident.

The primary goal of the VA Pharmacy Practice Residency program is to train and develop pharmacists who possess in-depth knowledge and skills in clinical pharmacy

practice. This program emphasizes the development of a wide spectrum of practice skills in different areas of pharmacy practice such as ambulatory care, medicine, drug information, and clinical pharmacology.

Each pharmacy resident is scheduled to do the eight required clinical rotations listed in the left column of the page. Each resident will select two elective rotations in areas such as critical care, oncology, psychiatry, or investigational drugs. Required rotations may be repeated as electives if the resident chooses.

The residency takes place at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, a 200+ bed teaching hospital in New



York City affiliated with New York University School of Medicine and Long Island University Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy. The Medical Center plays an important role in training healthcare professionals.

### Other Requirements

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen in order to apply. One of the criteria for completing the Pharmacy Residency is the completion of a research project during the year which will be presented as an abstract at the ASHP midyear meeting and as a completed project at the Eastern States Conference for Residents and Preceptors. This project may be in any area of interest to the resident,

which is pertinent to pharmacy practice. The completion of such a project will allow the resident to develop competencies in the area of research.

Residents must be licensed pharmacists in any of the 50 states by October 1st of the residency year.

All residents will also be required to provide the staff with one Accredita-

tion Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) lecture. The topic will be selected by the resident based on a list of desired topics that the staff has compiled.

In order to comply with the ASHP staffing requirement, eight hours of service commitment will be required.

## Pharmacy Practice Residency Program Practice Site Descriptions

### CORE ROTATIONS

**Practice Management:** Residents will be trained and assigned the following responsibilities:

- Work with the Chief/Pharmacy Site Manager on developing effective operational policies and procedures to assure proper control of the compounding and dispensing of all therapeutic and diagnostic agents.
- Identify and implement internal control systems to ensure accountability of funds, medications, equipment, payroll cost and other assets.
- Assist the Site Manager in overseeing the Departmental Operations.
- Contribute to the achievement of pharmacy goals through effective participation in or leading committees and informal work groups.
- Prepare the agenda and record the minutes for the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee meetings.
- Participate in the health system's formulary process.
- Understand the principles of a systematic approach to staff development in pharmacy practice.
- Understand steps that must be taken to ensure departmental compliance with accreditation, legal, regulatory, and safety requirements (e.g., AAHRPP and JCAHO requirements; ASHP standards, statements, and guidelines; state and federal laws regulating pharmacy practice; and OSHA regulations).
- Participate in the pharmacy department's planning processes.
- Help identify a service-level Performance Improvement program consistent with JCAHO and other relevant Quality Assurance standards.
- Conduct a staff meeting under the direct supervision of the Pharmacy Site Manager.
- Contribute to the development of a new pharmacy service or to the enhancement of an existing service.
- Provide instruction to pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students, pharmacy residents, and pharmacists.

**Drug Information:** Pharmacy school-affiliated drug information service serving all health care professionals from several health care centers.

- Provide concise, applicable, and timely responses to drug information requests from health care providers and patients.
- Organize student visits and precept drug information, ambulatory care and internal medicine rotations.
- Prepare a newsletter that provides pertinent medication use information to health care professionals
- Prepare drug monographs for medications considered for addition at P&T Committee meetings.
- Review/process requests for non-formulary medications.

**Primary Care Clinic:** Pharmacy service within Primary Care that includes Polypharmacy Clinic.

- Identify Primary Care patients with polypharmacy and evaluate patients prior to their primary care appointment.
- Complete interventions to decrease polypharmacy performed in addition to patient counseling on medication therapy to assess compliance.
- Assess chronic disease therapy in patients referred by providers based on risk factors, previous medications, concomitant diseases, and laboratory results.
- Monitor follow-up patients for efficacy and safety of therapeutic interventions.
- Counsel patients on diet and drug therapy.

**Infectious Disease Clinic:** Pharmacy service within infectious disease specialty clinic that work with patients treated for HIV infection.

- Counsel patients on their drug therapy and develop a medication schedule for the patient to follow when needed.
- Review medication profiles of pa-



New York Harbor Healthcare System—Brooklyn Campus

The Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Healthcare System is comprised of three campuses: Manhattan, Brooklyn and our long term care facility in Saint Albans. Residents may be required to rotate through Brooklyn and Manhattan campuses during their residency year based on the selected rotations.



New York Harbor Healthcare System—Manhattan Campus

## Pharmacy Practice Residency Program Practice Site Descriptions

tients seen and determine inappropriate dosages, therapeutic duplications, potential adverse drug events, and presence of any clinically significant drug-drug, drug-disease, drug-nutrient, or drug-laboratory test interactions.

- Adjust doses of HIV medications for renal impairments, drug interactions, etc.
- Maintain patients seen in walk-in clinic on appropriate therapy and coordinate follow-up when needed.
- Order relevant laboratory tests needed for future evaluation by pharmacist and provider.

**Internal Medicine:** Pharmacy services involving several pharmacists with different roles in improving patient care in the acute care setting.

- Conduct medication reviews, evaluate renal dosing, perform pharmacokinetic calculations, counsel patients upon discharge, and document patient education.
- Conduct pharmacokinetic calculations and therapeutic drug monitoring (ie aminoglycosides, vancomycin, warfarin, and anticonvulsants).
- Attend medical rounds and interdisciplinary morning rounds
- Make recommendations to physicians regarding medication regimens.
- Identify medication related patient problems.
- Long Island University (LIU) faculty member precept and coordinate activities of internal medicine students from the college of pharmacy.

### **Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) :**

A comprehensive primary care rotation where residents work with an interdisciplinary team to deliver care to patients in their home.

- HBPC team provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary care to veterans with complex chronic diseases.
- Participate in a team consisting of geriatric fellows, nurse practitio-

ners, social workers, an occupational therapist, a psychologist, and a dietician to collaborate in delivering routine care to patients at their home.

- Residents will make regular visits with members of the HBPC team and assess patients' medications and evaluate issues such as compliance, expiration dates, and storage.
- Counsel patients and their caregivers on their medications.
- Evaluate appropriateness of medications.
- Attend and contribute to weekly meetings held with the HBPC team
- Complete patient notes following each home visit.
- Answer pharmacy-related questions or issues from patients and the HBPC team.

## **LONGITUDINAL ROTATIONS**

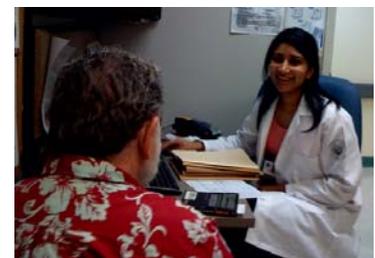
**Anticoagulation Clinic:** Pharmacy specialty clinic that manages anticoagulated ambulatory patients referred by primary care providers.

- Assess patients for appropriateness of Coumadin therapy, potential drug-drug interactions, drug-disease interactions, and drug-food interactions.
- Provide initial education to patients newly initiated on Coumadin therapy.
- Interview follow-up patients for relevant changes in medications, diet, activity, and disease states.
- Adjust anticoagulation therapy based on treatment goals, laboratory monitoring and patient interviews.
- Provide continuous education to follow-up patients regarding Coumadin therapy.
- Interview, assess, and triage patients for new complaints that require physician intervention.



Pharmacy practice residents using teamwork to enhance patient care.

***"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."*** - These words, spoken by Abraham Lincoln during his Second Inaugural Address, reflect the philosophy and principles that guide VA in everything we do, and are the focus of our endeavors to serve our Nation's veterans and their families.



Pharmacy practice resident seeing a patient in the anticoagulation clinic.

## Pharmacy Practice Residency Program Practice Site Descriptions

**Smoking Cessation Clinic:** Pharmacy service that manages smoking cessation, in conjunction with psychology service.

- Interview and assess patients for appropriate smoking cessation management.
- Provide education on pharmacological and non-pharmacological methods to enhance success in smoking cessation.
- Initiate pharmacotherapy for the patient when deemed appropriate.
- Monitor, reassess, and adjust medications for patients continuing on pharmacotherapy.

### Application Requirements:

Applicants must provide the following to be considered for the residency program:

- Completed application
- Official college transcript
- Curriculum vitae
- Letter of intent
- Three letters of recommendation
- All applicants must be United States Citizens

**Applications and letters of recommendation must be postmarked by January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

Please mail all application materials to:

**Simona Peker, Pharm.D**  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Department of Pharmacy (119)  
423 East 23rd Street  
New York, NY 10010

T: (212) 686-7500, ext. 4886

F: (212) 951-3387

E-mail: [simona.peker@va.gov](mailto:simona.peker@va.gov)

The pharmacy residents meet with the residency committee every month to track progress and raise any concerns or issues with upcoming events, residency projects or rotations



Residency class of '07-'08

### Stipend and Benefits

- Stipend - \$41,810
- Healthcare coverage provided
- Ten days annual leave (vacation)
- Ten days sick leave
- Ten paid holidays
- Subsidized on site housing (limited availability)

### Professional Meetings

Every year we apply for funding from our educational department to send our residents to the ASHP Midyear Meeting and to the Eastern States Conference for Residents and Preceptors.

We have been successful in providing reimbursement for the travel expenses every year, but funding is not guaranteed. All attempts will be made to send our residents to these meetings as they are an incredibly valuable learning experience.



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### When was the residency program developed?

This residency program was started in 1995 and graduated two residents its first year. Our program has grown steadily since then and this year we will be accepting 5 PGY-1 residents!

#### When does the residency start?

The start date for the 2008-2009 residency year will be June 27th, 2008.

#### Does this program offer PGY-2 (specialty) residencies?

At this time we do not offer any PGY-2 programs. We realize the need for more specialized training and we hope to add PGY-2 residencies in the future.

#### What are the staffing requirements for this residency?

Staffing will average 8 hours per week.

#### How are the rotations scheduled?

Each resident will fill out an initial self-assessment at the beginning of the residency year. This assessment will serve as a tool to attain the residents' strengths, weaknesses, interests, and goals for the residency. From this initial assessment, the director will devise a customized residency plan for each resident. This plan will be discussed with the resident and elective rotations will then be selected by the resident and director. All attempts will be made to accommodate any special scheduling requests for the resident's schedule.

#### Do all applicants have to come for an onsite interview?

All applicants who would like to be considered for the residency must come onsite for an interview.

#### How are the onsite interviews scheduled?

Once all of the applications are received and reviewed, applicants who have been selected for an onsite interview will be emailed available interview dates. The applicant will then schedule an interview date and time from the list.

#### Do applicants get reimbursed for costs associated with the onsite interview?

Unfortunately, we are not able to reimburse potential candidates for costs associated with onsite interviews. All costs must be paid by the applicant.

#### Is office space available to the residents?

There is office space with computer terminals, printers and desks available for all residents.

#### What are the teaching responsibilities of the residents?

Residents that choose to teach at Long Island University Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy will be assigned one day a week to assist in Physical Assessment Laboratory for two hours and one day every other week for two hours to lead the Pharmacology and Therapeutics recitation. The teaching is from September through December of the residency year.

## Pharmacy Practice Residency Program (PGY-1)



### Chief of Pharmacy

Joseph Aprile, M.S., R.Ph.  
(212) 686-7500, ext. 7652  
Fax: (212) 951-5451  
E-mail: [joseph.aprile@med.va.gov](mailto:joseph.aprile@med.va.gov)



### Residency Director

Simona Peker, MS/MLS, MSA, Pharm.D  
(212) 686-7500, ext. 4886  
Fax: (212) 951-5451

### OUR MISSION

The Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Healthcare System is dedicated to providing quality health care to veterans using the abilities of all employees, supported by our commitment to education and research.

### OUR VISION

We seek to be the provider of choice of veterans and the community by offering an efficient, integrated quality health care system capable of providing a full range of primary, specialty and chronic health care services in a system that is readily accessible and responsive to change.

### WE VALUE

Trust, Respect, Compassion, Commitment, Excellence, Teamwork, Communication, Diversity



### Mailing Address:

Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Department of Pharmacy (119)  
423 East 23rd Street  
New York, NY 10010

Visit our medical center's website at:  
<http://vaww.nyharbor.med.va.gov/>

### Where are they now?

Many applicants ask, "Where are the graduates of your residency program now?" This residency program was started in 1995 so our alumni base is quite extensive. Below highlights some of our alumni. For a full list please contact the residency coordinator.

#### Parls Abrams '07

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
Long Island University Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy, NY

#### Christine Bercume '07

Clinical Medicine Pharmacist  
Boston Medical Center, MA

#### Chris Emerson '07

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
Long Island University Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy, NY

#### Kristine Kim '07

Clinical Pharmacist  
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT

#### Melissa Mitchell '07

Specialty Pharmacy Practice Residency in Psychiatric Medicine  
VA San Diego Healthcare System, CA

#### Susan Morey '07

Drug Information Specialist  
The Medical Letter, NY

#### Anita Patel '07

Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care  
Philadelphia VA Medical Center, PA

#### Mary Choi '06

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Practice  
St. John's University, College of Pharmacy, NY

#### Prathima Pabbathi '06

Medical Information  
Bristol Myers-Squibb

#### Maria Dubas '06

Clinical Pharmacist  
Jersey City Medical Center, NJ  
Clinical Pharmacy Preceptor  
Rutgers School of Pharmacy, NJ

#### Denise Riccobono '06

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist  
Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, NY  
Specialty Pharmacy Practice Residency in Infectious Disease  
The University of Texas-MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

#### Rabia Tahir '06

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Practice  
St. John's University, College of Pharmacy, NY

#### Yvonne Wong '06

Clinical Pharmacist  
American Outcomes Management-Home Infusion Pharmacy

#### Adam Agovino '05

Independent Pharmacy Owner  
Sedgwick Pharmacy, Bronx, NY  
Ambulatory Care Preceptor  
St. John's University, College of Pharmacy, NY

#### Marlena Antonopoulos '05

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
Long Island University Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy, NY  
Clinical Coordinator of Internal Medicine  
VA New York Harbor Healthcare System, NY

#### Melissa Baxter '05

Critical Care Specialist - Neuro ICU/Surgical ICU  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
University of Buffalo, NY