

POSITION DESCRIPTION

- Function as an effective leader for assessment, planning, and implementation of safe medication use practices within a federal managed care setting.
- Assist and participate in pharmacovigilance and postmarketing surveillance efforts.
- Design, conduct, coordinate, and evaluate medication safety research and quality improvement initiatives.
- Collect medication safety data and apply appropriate data analysis techniques for evaluation, follow-up, and action.
- Prepare written communications and alerts focusing on current medication safety issues with recommendations, where applicable, for inclusion in national and local patient-care operations.
- Communicate and collaborate with physician and pharmacy leadership to ensure provider alignment with safe and appropriate medication use consistent with evidence-based findings from the literature and/or VA-specific data.
- Monitor adverse drug events using VA's spontaneous adverse drug event reporting system, leveraging technology and information technology to enable quality outcomes.
- Serve as an authoritative resource on safe and appropriate use of medications for the Veterans Health Administration (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, and present at regional and national meetings. Education will include practical training in evidence-based medicine, statistics, and pharmacoepidemiology. 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:	1
Application Deadline:	January 11, 2013
Interview:	Required; Onsite
Match Code:	634077
Starting Date:	July 1, 2013

EDUCATIONAL/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Degree
- Completion of first year residency or equivalent experience
- U.S. Citizenship
- Pharmacy Licensure in one of the States or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia
- Letter of Intent
- Three (3) Letters of Reference
- Curriculum Vitae
- Pharmacy School Transcripts

SALARY & BENEFITS

- Estimated Stipend: \$48,789
- 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 (VA MedSAFE) 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.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Francesca Cunningham, Pharm.D., is Associate Chief Consultant, VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services and Center for Medication Safety (PBM/VA MedSAFE). 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 Veterans Health Administration (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 pharmacoepidemiologic 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 the following sites:

<http://www.pbm.va.gov/VACenterForMedicationSafety-PGY2Residency.aspx>

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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VA Center for Medication Safety

The Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE) is a comprehensive pharmacovigilance program that has developed and implemented numerous national programs to monitor the safe and effective use of medications in VA.

VA MedSAFE has received national recognition for its efforts in drug safety and, as a result, collaborates closely with the FDA to evaluate the significance of known adverse drug reactions, in addition to identifying and tracking new and emerging drug safety issues. As such, VA MedSAFE conducts drug safety and monitoring efforts with the rigor of a regulatory body while maintaining the access and utilization required for a health care system.

VA MedSAFE optimizes drug therapy and patient outcomes by:

- Evaluating preventable adverse drug events (ADEs) through the use of passive surveillance via the VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System (VA ADERS), as well as active surveillance, using integrated databases to assess the rate and risk of ADEs associated with specific medications;
- Providing interventions to decrease preventable ADEs through the Risk Reduction program, which includes National Medication Use Evaluations (MUEs);
- Educating the field on medication safety and best practices to further decrease ADEs by issuing Drug Safety Alerts, a monthly medication safety newsletter, safety information related to Risk Reduction efforts, and various Continuing Education programs; and
- Conducting and promoting medication safety research.

More information on VA MedSAFE is available at: <http://www.pbm.va.gov/VACenterForMedicationSafety-Index.aspx>.

VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services

The Department of Veterans Affairs Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (VA PBM) oversees the formulary for the entire VA system, which serves more than 8.34 million Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare System and provides more than 139 million prescriptions per year.

Since its establishment in 1995, the VA PBM has managed pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical-related policies, including drug safety and efficacy evaluations, pharmacologic management algorithms, and criteria for drug use.

These evidence-based practices promote, optimize, and assist VA providers with the safe and appropriate use of pharmaceuticals while allowing for formulary decisions that can result in substantial cost savings.

The VA PBM has utilized various contracting techniques to standardize generic agents as well as specific drugs and drug classes. These methods have enabled the VA to save approximately \$1.5 billion dollars since 1996 even as drug expenditures continued to rise.

VA PBM collaborates with the VA Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE), a comprehensive pharmacovigilance center, to undertake quality-improvement and safety initiatives that ultimately monitor and determine the clinical impact of formulary decisions on the VA system nationwide.

More information on the VA PBM is available at: <http://www.pbm.va.gov>.



PGY2 RESIDENCY

Pharmacovigilance.

Outcomes.

Medication Safety.



VA Center for Medication Safety

VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services [PBM]
& Center for Medication Safety [VA MedSAFE]

www.pbm.va.gov