

Pharmacy Residency Program

*****Accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists since 1976*****

Philosophy

The VA Pharmacy provides pharmaceutical care services in a tertiary care, full teaching and research affiliated Medical Center on two campuses, Seattle and Tacoma. The primary purpose of the residency training program is to prepare pharmacists to face the challenges of contemporary pharmaceutical care. The residency centers on a broad, in-depth experience with emphasis on evidence based drug therapy and the development of advanced pharmaceutical care practice skills. The residency trains pharmacists to provide the highest quality care in today's challenging health care environment.

Program Description

The VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA PSHCS) residency in pharmacy practice is a one-year postgraduate training program (PGY1). The residency is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and follows training objectives outlined in the accreditation standard. The residency offers an organized and directed opportunity to develop knowledge, skills, and philosophy of pharmacy practice. Residents participate in interdisciplinary rounds, therapeutic consultation for medication regimens, drug therapy monitoring, drug interaction and adverse event evaluations, and medication counseling for patients. In addition, residents will have opportunities to precept pharmacy students, provide in-services to nurses and physicians, and give presentations to colleagues.

In order to gain inpatient distribution experience, residents will provide periodic weekend staffing. Generally, this is one weekend every three weeks with a minimum of 12 weekends. All clinical and distributive functions of a staff pharmacist will be performed during this time. Residents experience will focus on inpatient distribution including IV room as well as providing clinical services.

A research project is required, and each resident will present their projects at the local Seattle Area Pharmacists Meeting and at the Western States Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors in Pacific Grove, California. Appropriate resources are provided to guide the resident through the process of developing, executing and presenting a research project.

About the Medical Center

The VA Puget Sound Health Care System is a 488-bed acute care center that provides tertiary care for veterans in Western Washington. Services are also provided to veterans upon referral from Alaska, Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. The VA is affiliated with the University Of Washington School Of Medicine and has 37 allied health training programs (including pharmacy, nursing, psychology, and various other disciplines). Inpatient and outpatient clinical services include medicine, dialysis, surgery, neurology, substance abuse, rehabilitation medicine, gerontology, spinal cord injury, bone marrow transplant, women's care and psychiatry. The Medical Center receives over \$7 million of VA funding and \$10 million of non-VA funding for biomedical, gerontological, rehabilitation, and health systems research.

Benefits

The stipend and benefits are determined annually on a national basis by the VA and are adjusted by location. Each resident is eligible for two weeks of vacation, 10 paid holidays, sick leave, medical and life insurance, employee parking, and lab coats. All residents are provided administrative leave to attend educational conferences including the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and the Western States Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors Conference.

Qualifications

All residency candidates must meet the following prerequisites:

- ◆ United States Citizenship
- ◆ Bachelor or Doctor of Pharmacy with eventual licensure in any state

- ◆ A minimum GPA of 3.0
- ◆ A personal, on-site interview
- ◆ Participation in the [ASHP residency matching program](#)

How to Apply

Interested candidates may apply by submitting a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, all official college transcripts, three letters of recommendation, including from a university/college faculty, and a completed Application for Associated Health Occupations ([VA Form 10-2850B](#)) to the Residency Program Director. Letters of recommendation may conform to the [template provided by ASHP](#) or may be a free form letter.

Deadline for application to the VA residency is January 15th. The resident must participate in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) residency matching program.

For more information or an application, please contact:

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Overview of Rotations

Residency Training Schedule

The residency is a one-year program beginning July 1st. It is a full-time obligation with a minimum of 2,000 hours completed over a period of 50-52 weeks. The resident's schedule will be designed according to the resident's individual interests, background, education, as well as the needs of the institution. Residents become competent in each activity by meeting set goals and objectives, and are monitored throughout the program.

Four and six week clinical rotations in addition to longitudinal clinic rotations provide experience and develop competence in four major areas of pharmacy practice including: acute patient care (800 hours), ambulatory patient care (600 hours), drug information (400 hours), and practice management (200 hours). There are six scheduled clinical rotations, three to four electives, and six options for longitudinal clinics.

Scheduled clinical rotations include:

- ◆ Ambulatory Care Clinic (American Lake)
- ◆ Bone Marrow Transplant Unit
- ◆ General Medicine – Inpatient
- ◆ Medication Use Evaluation
- ◆ Primary Care Clinic (Seattle)
- ◆ Surgery / SICU

Elective rotations include:

- ◆ Infectious Disease
- ◆ Mental Health Clinic
- ◆ Oncology Clinic
- ◆ Spinal Cord Injury
- ◆ Women's Clinic

* Electives can be tailored to the resident's personal interests

Longitudinal clinic rotations include:

- ◆ Arthritis Clinic
- ◆ Cardiology Clinic
- ◆ Diabetes Clinic
- ◆ Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC)
- ◆ Pulmonary Clinic
- ◆ Renal Clinic

Acute Inpatient Care

Acute patient care pharmacy services are aimed at optimizing drug therapy. The resident will gain an appreciation for formulary management while learning to incorporate evidence based medical practices. The resident will have the opportunity to provide pharmacy services to various inpatient teams and providers by evaluating patient drug regimens and making appropriate interventions.

Inpatient activities include:

- ◆ Consultation in drug therapy selection
- ◆ Discharge counseling
- ◆ Drug information
- ◆ Formulary Management
- ◆ Monitoring drug therapy
- ◆ Nutrition support
- ◆ Patient education and counseling
- ◆ Patient medication reconciliation
- ◆ Preceptor for pharmacy students

Ambulatory Patient Care

Ambulatory patient care pharmacy services provide primary and specialized health care to veterans. The resident will be involved in direct patient care and disease state management in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams.

Ambulatory activities include:

- ◆ Drug information requests
- ◆ Formulary Management
- ◆ Monitoring safety and efficacy of drug therapy
- ◆ Participating in physical assessment and patient triage
- ◆ Patient Counseling
- ◆ Providing drug information to healthcare professionals
- ◆ Reviewing patient profiles for drug interactions, therapeutic duplications, or contraindications

Practice Management

Practice management for inpatient and outpatient is covered through an initial training session and several rotational experiences throughout the residency. Activities in this area provide experience in the overall direction and integration of pharmacy services.

Activities in this area include:

- ◆ Administrative projects
- ◆ Continuous quality improvement sessions
- ◆ Formulary / budget reviews and recommendations
- ◆ Interdepartmental projects and correspondence
- ◆ Monthly staffing requirements

- ◆ Management of controlled substances
- ◆ Workload / priority management

Drug Information and Drug Use Policy Development

Multiple opportunities during the Medication Use Evaluation rotation and throughout the residency provide experience in drug information and drug use policy development.

Activities in these areas include:

- ◆ Adverse drug reaction reporting
- ◆ Drug information
- ◆ Formulary management
- ◆ Formulary monographs and drug reviews
- ◆ Medication error reporting
- ◆ Pharmacy Drug Bulletin Newsletter
- ◆ Staff presentations

Rotation Descriptions

Scheduled Rotations

PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

PCC (6 weeks)

The Primary Care Clinic (PCC) rotation provides the resident with the skills to perform the responsibilities of a Primary Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. The resident should attain a well-rounded knowledge base of primary care disease states and therapy guidelines. The resident will be able to function independently in counseling patients on medication therapy. The resident should develop the skills to conduct a pharmacy clinic visit that ensures safety and efficacy of medication therapy and practice written and verbal communication skills to function as a patient-provider liaison.

SURGERY

SURG (4 – 6 weeks)

Resident will be involved in daily activities and direct patient care in peri-operative management in collaboration with other health care providers, including surgeons, ARNPs, PA-Cs, nutritionists, and respiratory therapists. Resident has the option to tailor the rotation according to his/her goals and objectives. There is a more general surgery rotation offered whereby the resident can round with the General Surgery team or the Peripheral Vascular team and act as the primary pharmacy provider for all of those patients. The other option will be rounding in the surgical intensive care unit and step down unit and has a more intense focus on critical care.

MEDICATION USE EVALUATION

MUE (4 weeks)

The Medication Use Evaluation (MUE) rotation prepares the resident to acquire the skills to perform pharmacy practice management and formulary management responsibilities. After completion of this rotation, the resident should attain a well-rounded knowledge base of pharmacy practice management activities and of the formulary and therapy guidelines. The resident should demonstrate skills to respond to medication information inquiries to ensure safety and efficacy of medication therapy. The resident will develop written and verbal communication skills to resolve formulary management issues.

AMBULATORY CARE - AMERICAN LAKE

AL (6 weeks)

The American Lake Ambulatory Care rotation allows the resident to gain experience working on a primary care multidisciplinary team. The resident will work directly with providers, nursing staff and other team members to provide health care to veterans. The resident will counsel patients on their medications, perform disease state

management (primarily involving HTN, DM and hyperlipidemia), and serve as a drug information resource for team members and patients. As schedule permits, there will be opportunity to teach group classes (anticoagulation, diabetes, weight management) and participate in other specialty clinics at the site (Addiction treatment clinic and clozaril clinic).

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

MED (6 weeks)

The resident will participate with a general medicine team in daily activities which include work rounds and attending rounds. Patients are admitted for a variety of medical diseases, some which require admission into the intensive care unit. The resident will conduct patient admission histories, monitor drug therapy and outcomes, provide drug information to the medical team, and provide patient/family education and medication counseling. The resident will be involved with pharmacokinetic monitoring and formulary management.

BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT UNIT

MTU (4 – 6 weeks)

Resident will be involved in providing direct patient care to Marrow Transplant Unit (MTU) patients in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team. The resident will be involved in interdisciplinary rounds five days a week. Responsibilities include TPN management, making recommendations to optimize patients' drug therapy throughout the transplant process, and counseling opportunities. The resident will also act as a preceptor to fourth year Pharm.D. students. Precepting responsibilities include facilitating discussion about topics relevant to the transplant setting and helping students prepare for their presentations. The resident will also present one patient or topic presentation at the weekly pharmacy clinical conference and one inservice to the Bone Marrow Transplant staff. Other learning opportunities include attending meetings and lectures on the MTU as time allows. The resident will also have the opportunity to observe procedures, including bone marrow biopsy and lumbar punctures.

Elective Rotations

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

MH (4 weeks)

Resident will be involved in daily activities and direct patient care in the Out Patient Mental Health Clinic in collaboration with other mental clinic providers. Residents will be greatly involved in patient care including counseling opportunities, psychiatric assessment, disease state management, and a resource for mental health providers for drug information related questions. Residents also will have opportunities to participate morning rounds with attending and psychiatry residents in the in-patient psychiatric unit.

SPINAL CORD INJURY UNIT

SCI (4 weeks)

Resident will be involved in daily Spinal Cord Injury patient care activities in collaboration with the SCI providers. Residents facilitate the comprehensive medication review rounds with the SCI providers, weekly. The resident will also participate in ward rounds and disease management. The resident serves as a resource for SCI providers for drug information requests, and provides formal presentations of medication management conditions unique to SCI patients.

ONCOLOGY CLINIC

ONC (4 weeks)

The resident will participate in daily activities in the care and management of patients receiving treatment for a variety of Oncologic disorders, including solid tumors, lymphomas, and leukemias. Includes provision of care in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Longitudinal Clinic Rotations

ARTHRITIS CLINIC

Resident will provide consulting and counseling for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, and other rheumatological issues. In addition, provide follow-up for medication changes, laboratory monitoring, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes management.

CARDIOLOGY CLINIC

Resident will be involved in daily activities and direct patient care in disease state management in collaboration with other cardiology providers. Actual clinic time involves one-half day a week and additional follow-up as needed for continuity of care. Residents will be greatly involved in patient care including counseling opportunities, physical assessment, disease state management, and a resource for cardiology providers for drug information related question. Weekly discuss a medical topic relating to cardiology or a formal case presentation. Other optional opportunities include shadowing providers and Cath lab procedures.

DIABETES CLINIC

Resident will be involved in daily activities and direct patient care in diabetes management in collaboration with other diabetes providers. Actual clinic time involves ½ day a week and additional follow-up as needed for continuity of care. Residents will be greatly involved in patient care including counseling opportunities, limited physical assessment, disease state management, and a resource for diabetic providers for drug information related question. Weekly discuss medical topic relating to diabetes. Other optional opportunities include involvement in diabetes education classes held monthly.

RENAL CLINIC

The Renal Clinic Pharmacy longitudinal rotation prepares the resident to acquire the skills to perform the responsibilities of a renal clinic pharmacy specialist. After completion of the rotation, the resident should attain a well-rounded knowledge base of renal-related disease states and drug therapies. The resident should demonstrate skills to conduct a pharmacy clinic visit to ensure safety and efficacy of medication therapy.

PULMONARY CLINIC

The Pulmonary Clinic resident is extensively involved with educating patients on various inhalation techniques by utilizing inhaler education devices and tools and documenting inhaler education with chart notes. Inhaler education notes document a patient's inhaler technique, areas of correct technique, areas needing improvement, and recommendations if any further follow-up on inhaler education is required. The resident also provides formulary expertise and acts as the drug information specialist for Pulmonary Clinic providers. The resident prepares a weekly topic/journal article discussion relating to pulmonary conditions. The resident also participates in the Pulmonary Lung Festival at Seattle and American Lake.

GERIATRICS RESEARCH EDUCATION AND CLINICAL CENTER CLINIC (GRECC)

The resident will be involved in the daily activities and direct patient care of geriatric patients in collaboration with other geriatric providers. Actual clinic time involves ½ day a week and additional follow-up as needed for continuity of care. Residents will be greatly involved in patient care including counseling opportunities, physical assessment, disease state management, and a resource for geriatric providers for drug information-related questions. Other activities include weekly discussions of a medical topic related to geriatrics and formal case presentations.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How many Pharmacy Residents train at VA PSHCS each year?

How do I apply for a Residency position at VA PSHCS?

How much Staffing is required of the residents?

What types of Elective rotations are available?

Can I do an elective at a different site?

How is the performance of Pharmacy Residents evaluated?

What types of health benefits are available to Pharmacy Residents?

Do Pharmacy Residents go to educational meetings?

Do I need a Washington Pharmacist license to be a Pharmacy Resident at VA PSHCS?

Do I need to be a U.S. citizen to be a Resident at VA PSHCS?

What type of computer and electronic resources are available at VA PSHCS?

What types of medical references are available?

What jobs have former residents taken after completing a Pharmacy Residency at VA PSHCS?

What is there to do in the Pacific Northwest?

1. **How many Pharmacy Residents train at VA PSHCS each year?**

VA PSHCS currently has six positions in our Pharmacy Residency Program. Residents share a centralized office and interact with each other on a daily basis.

2. **How do I apply for a Residency position at VA PSHCS?**

Residents are selected through the Residency Matching Program. This is administered through the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). Visit the ASHP web site at <http://www.ASHP.org> and select the link to “Residency and Accreditation Information” for more details about applying for a residency.

3. **How much Staffing is required of the residents?**

The Pharmacy Residents are required staff every third weekend once training is complete with a minimum of 12 weekends. This is designed to meet the staffing experience requirement for accredited Pharmacy Practice Residencies. During this staffing experience the resident will review and verify medication orders and perform clinical pharmacy monitoring functions.

4. **What types of Elective rotations are available?**

Pharmacy Residents have 4 elective months during the year. These electives may include (but are not limited to) mental health, spinal cord injury, infectious diseases, critical care, cardiology, women’s clinic, and oncology clinic. The elective time is used to tailor specific interests of the resident within the training program.

5. **Can I do an elective at a different site?**

It is possible for one elective to be completed outside of VA PSHCS. An outside site must be affiliated with an established residency program and the preceptor must be willing to have a resident from VA PSHCS. The resident is responsible for arranging an outside experience if one is desired.

6. **How is the performance of Pharmacy Residents evaluated?**

Residents are evaluated by Preceptors on every rotation. The evaluations are based on the ASHP Residency Learning System. Specific goals and objectives must be met for each of the rotations.

7. **What types of health benefits are available to Pharmacy Residents?**

Residents have access to the same medical, dental and vision insurance plans that are offered to full time employees of VA PSHCS. These include a wide range of HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) and PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) health plans.

8. **Do Pharmacy Residents go to educational meetings?**

Residents are expected to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in December and the Western States Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors in May. Travel funds are not available. If funds are available, registration to the Midyear Clinical Meeting will be funded.

9. Do I need a Washington Pharmacist license to be a Pharmacy Resident at VA PSHCS?

Residents are required to have a state pharmacist license in order to fulfill their duties as a Pharmacy Resident. However, the license does not need to be from Washington. It can be a Pharmacist License from any state in the USA.

10. Do I need to be a U.S. citizen to be a Resident at VA PSHCS?

Yes. According to Federal Law, you must be a citizen of the United States of America in order to be employed as a Pharmacy Resident at VA PSHCS.

11. What type of computer and electronic resources are available at VA PSHCS?

VA PSHCS utilizes an electronic medical record. Each Pharmacy Resident desk has its own computer terminal. Residents have access to a wide variety of Windows based programs, including Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, Explorer, and Power Point. Laptop computers and overhead projectors are available for conference presentations given at VA PSHCS.

12. What types of medical references are available?

VA PSHCS has access to a large number of electronic and paper drug information and therapeutics references. Drug references include but not limited to Micromedex, AHFS Drug Information, and USP DI. Residents also have full access to Up To Date, MD Consult, and OVID/Medline. The library carries many medical text books and maintains subscriptions to various medical journals.

13. What jobs have former residents taken after completing a Pharmacy Residency at VA PSHCS?

The primary objective of the residency training program is to prepare pharmacists to take a role in any practice setting and be able to face the challenges of contemporary pharmaceutical care. Former residents have taken a wide variety of positions in several practice settings. Former residents now work in clinical pharmacy practices in both inpatient and ambulatory care settings; many have stayed at VA PSHCS. Others have entered specialty programs or fellowships. Residents have also gone on to develop new clinical services and clinics at the VA and elsewhere. Some residents have become university faculty or preceptors. Former residents have eventually become pharmacy supervisors or clinical coordinators.

14. What is there to do in the Pacific Northwest?

Washington is home to two unique climates separated by the Cascade mountain range. Western Washington is influenced by its proximity to the Pacific Ocean and characterized by its mild seasons; whereas, Eastern Washington is known more for its dry summers and snowy winters. Washington's coast offers breathtaking scenery and a glimpse of nature's rugged beauty along the Olympic peninsula. Between the protected bays of the Puget Sound and the forested foothills of the Cascade Range lie miles of rich farmland and the state's largest urban concentration – the metropolitan corridor of Olympia, Tacoma, Everett, and Seattle. The Evergreen State is densely forested with some of the world's largest trees. Throughout this region you will find historic communities, picturesque lighthouses, and a legacy of Native American culture. There are numerous activities to suit your spirit of adventure year-round.

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