

Who We Are

Progressive and flexible – you'll find your home here VA NWIHCS. Our residents thrive in our tight-knit pharmacy family. The entire facility becomes invested in the success of our residents; from providers and nurses, to our clerks and pharmacy technicians.

We can't wait to hear from you and continue to introduce you to our program at VA NWIHCS.

Connect With Us

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ASHP Accredited PGY2 – Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program



**VA – OMAHA, NE
Nebraska-Western Iowa
Health Care System**

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Dear Colleague,

You've reached another exciting milestone in your pharmacy journey - congratulations! Choosing where to apply for your residency will be one of the most important decisions of your career. It will accelerate your learning and shape the way you will practice for many years to come.



At VA NWIHCS, we want you to have the information you need to make a confident decision. Though this document provides a general overview of our pharmacy residency program, we will always make ourselves available to answer your questions with greater detail. It's our goal for you to complete your evaluation process with a clear understanding of what it's like to be a pharmacy resident within our healthcare system.

We offer three positions in our accredited PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency. Omaha, NE serves as our primary practice site, however as a multi-site program, residents can complete up to 60% of their rotations at our rural Grand Island location if they wish. We continually refine our programs to provide you with a relevant environment to hone your clinical skills and discover leadership capabilities. Our program leadership and preceptor teams are proud to be a part of the careers of our residents and our ability to offer employment opportunities within the VA NWIHCS to several of our past graduates. But our proudest achievement is helping you reach your goals, because **we believe when you succeed, we all succeed.**

As you research the many residency programs available to you, I encourage you to be curious and thoughtful in exploring our VA NWIHCS Ambulatory Care program. If you believe VA NWIHCS is the right home for you to take the next step in your professional development, we welcome your application; and if you would like to speak to someone who can offer you greater insight about our program, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Good luck in your pursuit and welcome to residency!

Best,

Lisa Bilsend, PharmD, BCACP
PGY2 Residency Program Director



Residency Training at VA NWIHCS

Training at VA NWIHCS prepares you for any practice setting through opportunities in high volume primary care clinics, experience in specialty pharmacy, as well as longitudinal relationships with patients through PACT, anticoagulation and home-based primary care. Residents will gain experience in project management and leadership through precepting PGY1s and APPE students.

You will be guided by clinical experts with years of experience in hands-on instruction.

A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

- PGY1: established in 2009 – expanded to 6 positions in 2024
- PGY2 - Ambulatory Care program: established in 2019 – expanded to three positions in 2024 with Omaha as the primary practice site
- RPDs meet with residents monthly (as a group) and quarterly on an individual basis to assess resident progress, interests and goals. The well-rounded programs are comprehensive and flexible to match the career goals of each resident.

Our Culture of Continuous Improvement



Our residency programs are firmly rooted in ASHP accreditation standards with the goal of maintaining continual state of accreditation readiness

We regularly evaluate and improve our alignment with ASHP through self-assessment, leadership team review, comments and guidance from ASHP accreditation surveyors and most importantly, the feedback of our residents and graduates

HOW YOU BENEFIT

- You have a voice in enhancing our programs
- When new needs arise, we expand or refine the scope of our programs to support your growth
- You have the flexibility to design and execute rotations across our entire healthcare system to round out the specific experience you desire
- Our leadership team and preceptors share a commitment to learning and constantly pursue development opportunities to serve you better

About Us: VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

NWI is an integrated health care system with multi-campus clinics available for Veterans across the state of Nebraska and communities in western Iowa and northern Kansas. Our medical center in Omaha is an inpatient facility with multiple specialty clinics, outpatient and inpatient substance abuse treatment program. Lincoln is exclusively outpatient clinics. The Grand Island Medical Center is home to outpatient clinics, a few specialties, CLC, as well as and residential substance abuse treatment program.

Across the healthcare system, we have satellite locations providing outpatient services in North Platte, Holdrege, Norfolk, Bellevue and Shenandoah, IA and CLC in Papillion.



VA NWI RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

During the residency year, PGY1 and PGY2 residents will work together as a group with preceptors from across the integrated health care system. This collaboration and networking provides residents with more peers to lean on during this year of ongoing learning/training. Residents will have quarterly meetings with the leadership team, quarterly socials (as available) and team up on monthly presentations to the pharmacy department across all campuses.

PGY1 Positions: 6

PGY2 Ambulatory Care Positions: 3

Advanced clinical services are provided by pharmacists throughout the VA NWIHCS in a variety of inpatient, outpatient, subacute and specialty settings. We have expanded outpatient clinics in PCMHI, pain, cardiology as well as weight loss medicine clinics.

ASHP Program Purpose Statements

PGY2 PROGRAM PURPOSE

PGY2 residency programs build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and PGY1 pharmacy residency training to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives for advanced practice areas. Residents who successfully complete PGY2 residency programs are prepared for advanced patient care or other specialized positions, and board certification in the advanced practice area, if available.

Clinical Pharmacy

Primary Care

Residents will gain experience working in a fast-paced clinic environment with close relationships with primary care providers. On average 8-14 patients per day are scheduled in each pharmacist-run clinic. Residents will participate in face-to-face, phone and virtual visits for a well rounded experience

Given our well-established practice, our providers look to the clinical pharmacy team for the latest information from clinical trials and actively seek input from the pharmacy team in managing chronic diseases.

Here at NWI, we stretch the limits of our general scope of practice and routinely manage diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, congestive heart failure, hypothyroidism, gout, COPD, mental health, polypharmacy and many other chronic diseases. Our visits are truly comprehensive.

Specialty Clinics

Residents will integrate into several required specialty clinics, including cardiology, pain and PCMHI clinics. The PCMHI clinic rotation will be completed at the Omaha VA; we have outpatient cardiology and pain clinics at Omaha VA, as well as Grand Island VA. Residents will choose from a variety of elective experiences to round out their year.

Our Residency Graduates

Our PGY2 graduates are Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners, practicing within the VA.

- Pain/Whole Health – Omaha VA (VA NWIHCS)
- PACT – William S. Middleton VA (Madison, WI)
- PACT – Grand Island VA (VA NWIHCS)

PGY2 Ambulatory Care

First half of the year	Second half of the year (5 week rotations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation (2 weeks) <p>Longitudinally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT (2 days)^δ • Anticoagulation (1 day)^δ • HBPC (1 day)^δ • Population Management (0.5 day)^δ • Admin time (0.5 day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain clinic • Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) + • Cardiology Clinic⁺ <p>Elective Opportunities (x3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academia⁺ • Academic Detailing^δ • Anticoagulation^δ • CBOC PACT • Endocrine Clinic⁺ • Geriatrics/HPBC^δ • Residency Management^δ • Specialty Clinics Rotation⁺ • Women's Health⁺
<p>Longitudinal Experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residency Project • Practice Management • 2nd half the year - Choose: PACT or HBPC (0.5-1 day per week) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Others can be developed based on the interests of resident 	
<p>^δcan be completed Omaha or Grand Island campus ⁺must be completed from Omaha campus</p>	

Omaha serves as the primary practice site for the PGY2 program, however many of the required and elective experiences are offered at our rural Grand Island VA location or virtually. Residents must complete at least 20 weeks at the Omaha VA.

The primary care clinics at VA NWIHCS are robust and progressive. The volume of patients and the variety of disease states managed by the pharmacists are unmatched within our healthcare system. Residents will gain valuable experiences in longitudinal management of core disease states in the PACT clinics, anticoagulation and HBPC, as well as required/elective specialty rotations. Residents will hone their precepting skills as they mentor PGY1s in clinic and for projects, as well as coordinate the APPE Student Forum Series (monthly).

Admission Requirements

VA NWHCS residency programs are available to PharmD graduates of ACPE-accredited colleges of pharmacy. Interview consideration requires:

- U.S. Citizenship, fluent in English language
- Letter of Intent[€]
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three standard reference forms in PhORCAS
- Official College of Pharmacy transcripts
- Eligible for licensure in any of the 50 US states or the District of Columbia – licensure within 120 days of beginning of residency

[€] LOI should include your short/long-term goals, strengths, interests, areas you plan to work on and why the VA NWHCS is a good match

Additional Requirements for PGY2 Applicants*

- Enrolled in or graduate of ASHP-accredited or candidate-status PGY1 pharmacy residency
- PGY1 RPD must be one of the reference writers
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete of at least one ambulatory care/primary care rotation prior to application submission

Regular Match Application Deadline: January 10

Early Commitment

Application Deadline: November 1st

** Residents in good standing currently completing PGY1 at any VA are eligible for early commitment to the PGY2 program (application is completed outside of PhORCAS)*

- U.S. Citizenship, fluent in English language
- Eligible for licensure in any of the 50 US states or the District of Columbia – licensure within 120 days of beginning of residency
- Letter of Intent[€]
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two references (applicants will provide blank form to preceptors and reference writers will email directly to RPD)
 - PGY1 RPD must be one of the reference writers
 - Clinical preceptor, ideally from ambulatory care PGY1



Benefits

- Stipend (\$50,679-PGY2)
- Comprehensive health benefits package, including dental/vision
- 11 Federal holidays
- 13 days annual leave, 13 days sick leave
- Travel assistance to regional conference or ASHP MidYear (as available)

Recruiting Events:

Please join our virtual show case in October (contact RPD for link)!
[VA Virtual Showcase PGY2 Ambulatory Care – October 18th – 1-3pm CST](#)

MidYear Booth 4427 (Monday afternoon session)

Please visit our website for more information:
[Pharmacy Residency Programs | VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)