



VA CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program

Are you interested in “researching” our residency program?



“Objectives”

What is the purpose of the residency program?

PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and outcomes to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions, eligible for board certification, and eligible for postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training.

“Background”

What do you need to know about pharmacy practice at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System?

Clinical pharmacy specialists provide services to Primary Care, Anticoagulation, Acute Internal Medicine, Oncology, Geriatrics, Surgery, Psychiatry, Specialty Clinics (including Stroke, Parkinson’s, Erythropoietin, and Hepatitis C clinics), and Home Based Primary Care. Pharmacists function independently with a scope of practice in each of these specialty areas to provide patient-centered care. Pharmacists and technicians in the inpatient and outpatient pharmacies manage operations and drug distribution. Research pharmacists oversee the investigational drug service.

The VA Connecticut Healthcare System acts as a site for pharmacy Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE and APPE) rotations. Many of our preceptors hold adjunct faculty appointments at the schools. VA Connecticut also has a Center of Excellence (COE) in Primary Care, an innovative, multidisciplinary education program for training of medical residents and students, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and pharmacists.

“Methods”

How is the residency program structured? What is required of residents?

Rotations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required rotations in ambulatory care, acute care, and management Variety of elective rotations with flexible scheduling 	<p style="text-align: center;">Rotations</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Required</th> <th>Elective</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Medicine Anticoagulation Ambulatory Care Center of Excellence (COE) in Primary Care Management Drug Information Inpatient Staffing Research Teaching Professionalism </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geriatrics/LTC HBPC MICU/SICU Inpatient Psych Outpatient Psych Oncology Hepatitis C Hospice/ Palliative Care Emergency Room ID/Stewardship Surgery </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Required	Elective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Medicine Anticoagulation Ambulatory Care Center of Excellence (COE) in Primary Care Management Drug Information Inpatient Staffing Research Teaching Professionalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geriatrics/LTC HBPC MICU/SICU Inpatient Psych Outpatient Psych Oncology Hepatitis C Hospice/ Palliative Care Emergency Room ID/Stewardship Surgery
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Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medication Use Evaluation Poster at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting Longitudinal Residency Project Platform Presentation at Eastern States 					
Presenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly presentations include case presentations, journal club presentations, professional development CE presentations, non-formulary presentations 					
Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Certificate Program Adjunct faculty appointments Precepting pharmacy students on IPPEs and APPEs 					
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekend requirements on a rotating basis Evening requirements on a rotating basis Holiday requirements on a rotating basis 					



n = 6 PGY1 Pharmacy Residents, 1 PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacy Resident, and 1 PGY2 Mental Health Pharmacy Resident

“Results”

Where do residents typically practice upon graduating from our program?



Our residents are qualified to practice independently or pursue specialized training with the capability and flexibility to adapt to future changes in healthcare. Residents have gone into a number of venues, some including: clinical positions in ambulatory care and hospital practice, academia, and management. Others have gone on to complete specialized residencies. Many of our residents have remained at VACT, now as preceptors to current and future residents!

“Conclusions”

How do you apply to our residency program?

To apply you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a graduate of an ACPE-accredited Doctor of Pharmacy degree program
- Be a licensed pharmacist or eligible for licensure in any state
- Adhere to the rules of the resident matching program
- Be available for an on-site interview

Applicants must submit their application materials using PhORCAS, the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service. Mailed or emailed applications will NOT be accepted.

Applications must include:

- Letter of intent
- Curriculum vitae
- Three recommendations using the standardized reference form in PhORCAS
- Official transcript

Applications must be submitted by Jan. 1st

“References”

Where should you go for more information about the residency program?

Additional information is available at our website at www.vactresidency.shutterfly.com.

Please feel free to contact our residency program director or any of our residents. Contact information is included in our recruiting materials and on the website.

General Information

Facility Overview

The VA Connecticut Healthcare System serves more than 50,000 veterans who reside in Connecticut and Southern New England. VA Connecticut provides primary, secondary, and tertiary care in medicine, geriatrics, neurology, psychiatry, surgery, and other specialty areas. As part of the VA New England Healthcare System, VA Connecticut is comprised of an inpatient facility in West Haven and two ambulatory care centers in West Haven and Newington, as well as six primary care Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) located in outlying areas of the state in Danbury, New London, Stamford, Waterbury, Willimantic, and Winsted. The West Haven Campus has a 150-bed hospital, providing acute medical, surgical, and psychiatric care. The Newington Campus is a center for ambulatory care and diagnostic procedures. The CBOC's provide Primary Care to veterans in outlying parts of the state. VA Connecticut conducts research in psychiatry, oncology medicine, surgery, neurology, and related basic sciences.

Major affiliations include the Yale University School of Medicine, the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and School of Dentistry. VA Connecticut is also affiliated with the University of Connecticut (UConn), University of St. Joseph (USJ), Western New England University (WNEU), and the University of Rhode Island (URI) Schools of Pharmacy.

Employee Benefits

The Residency program begins July 1st of the current year and ends June 30th of the subsequent year. VACT Healthcare System will hire the resident as a 1-year term employee entitled to the following benefits:

- 4 hours of accrued annual leave (vacation) and sick leave per pay period (every two weeks)
- 10 paid holidays
- Health and Life Insurance (80% of premium paid by employer) - a full range of health plans are available



Accredited

Residents and RPD's



PGY-1 Pharmacy Residents

Brittany Dickhaus, PharmD
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Micaela Leblanc, PharmD
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Melissa Wright, PharmD
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PGY-2 Pharmacy Residents

Nick Boemio, PharmD

PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacy Resident
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Tamara Bystrak, PharmD

PGY-2 Mental Health Pharmacy Resident
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Residency Program Directors

Becky Curtin, PharmD, BCPS

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Kristy Falco, PharmD, BCGP

PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program Director
Kristy.Falco@va.gov

Angela Boggs, PharmD, BCPP

PGY-2 Mental Health Pharmacy Residency Program Director
Angela.Boggs@va.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

How are the rotations scheduled for the PGY-1 residents?

The majority of the required rotations are scheduled during the first half of the year. Electives are selected on an individual basis. Timing and length of elective rotations are individualized for each resident to best meet their goals and interests.

What types of projects are required for the resident?

Each resident conducts a medication use evaluation which is presented as a poster at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. The resident is also responsible for completing a major residency project that is presented at the Eastern States Residency Conference. A continuing education lecture presentation is also required. Other projects include: journal clubs, patient case presentations, non-formulary presentations, and a newsletter which are rotated on a monthly basis. Rotation specific projects may also be required.

What teaching opportunities are available for the residents?

The residents have ample opportunity to precept PharmD students on rotations as well as provide lectures at local universities. Residents also participate in a teaching certificate program with the University of Connecticut.

How are residents evaluated during the residency program?

Each rotation is formally evaluated and documented in PharmAcademic®. Residents are also provided with formative verbal feedback throughout each of their rotations. An individual development plan is discussed between the resident and the program director on a quarterly basis. Adjustments are made to the training plan based on the resident's strengths, weakness, interests, and goals, and incorporates feedback from the resident and from preceptors.

What are your staffing requirements?

Currently, residents staff one weekend every three weeks in the inpatient pharmacy and one evening shift every six weeks. They also work two weekday shifts per month during the first half of the year. Each resident is also required to work two-three holidays. This is subject to change each year depending on the number of residents and the needs of the department.