

FARGO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

PGY-2 PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY

RESIDENCY



Program: The Fargo VA HCS has a well-established accredited PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency which has two positions and was started in 1993. The PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency was started in 2014 and has one position available. The PGY-2 is in candidate status for accreditation.

Facility: The Fargo VA serves Veterans across North Dakota and much of Minnesota. The Fargo VA has robust inpatient and outpatient clinical pharmacy services on site. Inpatient hospital wards include: mental health, internal medicine, general surgery, intensive care (surgical and medical), and a community living center (CLC) for rehab, hospice and long-term care needs. Outpatient services/specialties include mental health, substance abuse, primary care, cardiology, urology, nephrology, infectious diseases, pulmonology, rheumatology, neurology, and oncology.

Inpatient Psychiatry: The Fargo VA has a newly renovated 10 bed state of the art inpatient unit. During this 3 month block rotation, residents will provide comprehensive clinical pharmacy services including attending interdisciplinary rounds on the inpatient unit. Residents will complete medication reconciliation, document a comprehensive assessment/plan and will educate each patient on their medication regimen prior to discharge. Residents will be responsible for identifying any medication related problems and making appropriate recommendations as well as researching any drug information questions requested by psychiatrists or preceptors.

Outpatient Psychiatry: During this longitudinal rotation, residents will be involved in a variety of activities and will be assigned to an interdisciplinary team (BHIP). BHIP teams meet three times per week and include psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, nursing staff, peer support and administrative staff. Residents will provide medication support to the mental health team. During BHIP team meetings, new patients, complex patients, or patients transitioning levels of care will be discussed and treatment plan will be developed by the BHIP team. Pharmacy is rapidly expanding services on the mental health service line and residents will be involved in the following pharmacy ran clinics including:

- Clozapine Management
- Alcohol Use Disorders Clinic
- High Risk Medication Management Clinic
- PTSD Medication Management Clinic

Rural Access Network Growth Enhancement Program (RANGE): RANGE is a program designed to provide intensive services to Veterans living in the community with severe mental illnesses. This team meets weekly and consists of a psychiatrist, nursing, social work, peer support, and administrative support. Nursing, social work, and administrative staff go off-site into the Veteran's home and assist the Veteran in maintaining independence in the community, achieving their treatment goals, and improving their quality of life.

Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI): PCMHI is a one month rotation in addition to a longitudinal component in which residents will assist in managing uncomplicated mental health illnesses such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD on the primary care teams.

Substance Abuse: Substance abuse will be a longitudinal rotation that includes a variety of activities that are accomplished during or apart from other rotations. Residents will attend weekly substance abuse treatment program (SATP) rounds. Substance abuse activities will include participating in the alcohol use disorders clinic, presenting at groups, and providing additional medication review/recommendations for Veterans participating in our substance abuse programs. The Fargo VA also recently established a buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone) clinic.

Pain: Nationwide the VA Health Care System is emphasizing and addressing opioid safety and abuse. During this longitudinal rotation (approximately ½ day per week), residents will review patients for interdisciplinary pain team evaluation and provide recommendations for alternative pain medications and opioid tapers. In addition, residents will be involved in performing chart reviews for Veterans on a combination of opioid and benzodiazepine therapy, evaluate the appropriateness of the indication, and provide recommendations on current regimen.

Research: Residents are required to complete psychiatric research project and to produce a manuscript of publishable quality. The Fargo VA pharmacy resident program emphasizes publishing and residents are strongly encouraged to pursue publication of their completed research project.

General Medicine: Residents will assist in general medicine activities for approximately 2-3 hours per week during the course of the residency to maintain their general medicine knowledge and skills acquired during their PGY-1 residency.

Academia (elective – North Dakota State University): The Fargo VA HCS has a strong affiliation with North Dakota State University College of Health Professions. Residents can elect to participate in the teaching certificate program and teach didactic lectures in the psychiatric pharmacotherapy course. Other teaching opportunities include precepting APPE students on rotation and working with PGY1 residents.

Eating Disorders (elective – Sanford Health): Sanford Health is nationally renowned for their inpatient eating disorder unit and their partial program. Residents may elect to participate in this off-site rotation to gain experience in treating anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and binge eating disorder in addition to managing other psychiatric comorbidities.

Pediatric Psychiatry (elective – Sanford Health / Prairie St. John's): Opportunities to gain exposure and experience in working in children and adolescents in both the inpatient and outpatient settings are available as off-site learning experiences.

Partial / Residential Programming (elective – Prairie St. John's): Opportunities to gain experience in working in partial / residential programming is available off-site at Prairie St. John's. During this rotation, residents will gain exposure in managing subacute serious mental illness and chemical dependency.

Mentoring: The PGY-2 resident will serve as chief resident. Duties include ensuring PGY-1 residents are prepared for their first presentations and assisting PGY-1 residents in the research process. The chief resident will also attend a monthly residency advisory committee (RAC) meeting. The PGY-2 resident will also have ample opportunities to work with APPE and IPPE students in a precepting/mentoring role.

Other Activities:

- Interdisciplinary Training (psychology interns, social work interns, psychiatry residents)
- Weekly journal club
- Lunch N' Learn
- Provider and healthcare staff education/presentations
- Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee (P & T)
- Other rotations may be available/arranged based on residents interests and past residency training experience

Stipend/Benefits: Resident stipend is determined nationally on an annual basis ~\$44,000. Residents receive full federal benefits including: annual leave (13 days), sick leave (13 days), 10 paid federal holidays, insurance options (medical, vision, and dental), retirement and flex spending options.

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