



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Roseburg VA Medical Center
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Frequently Asked Questions - Roseburg VA PGY-1 Pharmacy Program

Q: What does a typical day look like for a PGY-1 resident?

A: Our days are mostly divided into rotations in the mornings and longitudinal rotations in the afternoon. Our longitudinal rotation time is dedicated to year-long rotations including outpatient staffing, anticoagulation, long-term care/transitional care unit medication reviews, and population management. Additional longitudinal rotations that are 4 months are antibiotic stewardship/medication safety, chief resident duties, and primary care that are given dedicated time throughout the week.

Q: What core rotations does your site offer?

A: We have 2 major core rotations, each of which are 8 weeks long. These are primary care and long-term care/transitional care unit. Pharmacy administration, joint commission review, primary care mental health integration (PCMHI), and inpatient at our local community hospital (Mercy Medical Center) are also required rotations and are 4 weeks long. Teaching Certificate completion is required (previously an elective).

Q: What elective rotations does your site offer?

A: We offer elective rotations in adult primary care at our Eugene clinic and outpatient mental health at the Roseburg VA as well as the option to repeat any core rotation as an elective. In addition to electives, we provide free training in BLS and ACLS. Additionally, opportunities for training and certification are subject to availability. For the upcoming residency year, inpatient mental health and pain management are expected opportunities.

Q: What is your work-life balance like? How many hours do you typically work?

A: This certainly varies from resident to resident. Our program is set up in such a way that it allows for a lot of flexibility. On average, residents spend around 40-50 hours per week on site. Residents are provided 12 federal holidays and 13 vacation days over the year with no mandated work weekends aside from conferences with travel and attendance supported by the VA.

Q: What is it like to live in Roseburg?

A: Roseburg is perfectly located for anyone who has a passion for the outdoors! There are countless hiking trails around the area, multiple wineries, and local breweries and restaurants.

We are located one to one and half hour away from Eugene and Medford and two hours away from coastal Bandon and the world-famous Crater Lake.

Q: What made you choose this PGY-1 program over other programs?

A: All 3 of us were drawn to the program because it has a strong emphasis in ambulatory care. We also have a significant amount of autonomy and flexible rotation opportunities, which we all felt was a benefit to this program that is not shared by many others.

Q: What qualities are you looking for in a resident?

A: Excellent work ethic and resiliency, communication skills, ability to multitask independently, professionalism, and a solid clinical background. This residency program focuses particularly on outpatient ambulatory care – it is also important for the resident to have good interpersonal skills as they will spend a significant amount of time providing direct patient care and one-on-one appointments with Veterans.

Q: What are the preceptors like at your program?

A: The preceptors at the Roseburg VA work diligently to ensure that the residents are progressing and furthering their clinical skills and knowledge. They are experts in a wide variety of clinical pharmacy fields such as: Ambulatory Care, Psychiatric Pharmacy, Infectious Diseases, Pain and Palliative Care, and Long-Term Care. Several preceptors serve as mentors for projects and presentations that the residents will work on throughout the residency year. For longitudinal rotations, preceptors may regularly alternate throughout the year allowing residents to gain a wide variety of perspectives from several experienced providers.

Q: How are your year-long residency projects selected?

A: The residents complete quality improvement projects. The ideas for these projects sometimes stem from facility identified needs (from national, regional, or local VA mandates). Generally, ideas for projects are presented to residents to select from at the beginning of the residency year. If an incoming resident has a strong interest in completing a certain project, it should be expressed to the residency program director as soon as possible after the Match process.

Q: What types of projects are you working on for this year?

A: The projects we are working on this year are all quality improvement projects. Dr. Gandhi is working on deprescribing of benzodiazepines with a DEA – licensed PCMH pharmacist. Dr. Proteau is working on a project to increase the distribution of naloxone to patients with a stimulant use disorder, due to increasing finding of opioids in illicit stimulants. Dr. Ly is working on a project to optimize statin use in patients with diabetes to reduce cardiovascular risk.

Q: When does the residency start?

A: The residents start two weeks prior to July 1st every year. This allows our previous residents to provide warm handoff of patients and projects to incoming residents.

Q: What changes do you expect for next year residency program?

A: Each year we hold an annual residency review meeting where feedback from residents and preceptors is gathered. The feedback is used to make improvements on the residency cycle for the following year. For 2022, we added more administration and project time and restructured the outpatient/staffing component. We converted electronic health records from CPRS to Cerner in June 2022 which has brought about many challenges. With these challenges come opportunities to participate in informatics, patient safety and system-wide process improvement projects. At this time no additional changes are set for the program, however this can change based on staffing and facility need.

Q: What opportunities do applicants have to talk to current residents/RPD?

A: We will have a virtual open house 11/14/22 from 5-6 PM PST. We will be at 2022 ASHP Midyear (booth 5512). We will also participate in the Federal Pharmacy Virtual Residency Showcase 12/7/2022 from 12-2PM. For any other questions, please email **VHAROS-PharmResidency@va.gov**

Frequently Asked Questions – Roseburg VA PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Program

Q: What does a typical day look like for a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care resident?

A: As an ambulatory care PGY-2 resident, you function as your team's clinical pharmacy specialist. The majority of your time will be spent seeing patients either via face-to-face or virtual appointments. You will also be involved in various longitudinal experiences including pain management team and primary care mental health integration (PCMHI).

Q: What types of projects are you working on for this year?

A: Projects will always be geared towards the resident's specific interests. This year, the resident is working on safety event reporting after transitioning the Electronic Health Record system in June of 2022.

Q: How do I apply for the PGY-2 ambulatory care program?

A: Interested applicants will need to apply via the ASHP match system utilizing PhORCAS. The PGY-2 ambulatory care residency does offer early commitment to current Roseburg VA PGY-1 residents, so for that reason applicants should also contact Dr. Jessica Johnson at Jessica.Johnson14@va.gov or the current PGY-2 resident Thu Mi Do at ThuMi.Do@va.gov for questions or clarifications.

Q: What does it mean to early commit to the program?

A: Residents who graduate from the Roseburg VA PGY-1 program have the option to apply for a PGY-2 within the same health system outside of the match system and prior to the match deadline. This applies to both the Eugene Ambulatory Care as well as the Roseburg Pain and Palliative Care PGY-2 programs. The early commit application and selection process typically takes place prior to ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

Q: What are the requirements to apply to this program?

A: Applicants interested in applying for the PGY-2 ambulatory care program must be in good standing with their current PGY-1 program. Applicants should also be United States citizens. Additionally, applicants will need to provide 3 recommendation letters, official school transcripts, and a personalized letter of intent.