

# VA Boston Healthcare System

## PGY-1 Residency Program

VA Boston Healthcare System (VABHS) exists to serve the veteran through the delivery of timely quality care by staff who demonstrate outstanding customer service, the advancement of health care through research, and the education of tomorrow's health care providers.

The VABHS consists of three campuses: Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury and Brockton, where pharmacists are responsible for providing pharmaceutical care in a variety of Ambulatory Care and Inpatient settings.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialists (CPS) are actively involved in the management of patients with various disease states and work closely with other health care professionals. CPS at the VABHS have prescriptive privileges under the supervision of an attending physician.

VABHS offers a PGY-1 residency program, with seven positions, that is flexible enough to meet the interests of its individual residents. Residents can choose to spend the majority of their time in either Ambulatory or Acute Care experiences or spend equal time in each.

All PGY-1 residents are required to have at least one 12-week block focusing on ambulatory care. During that block the residents will spend a minimum of two days in primary care clinic, one day in anticoagulation clinic, and the remaining time devoted to staffing, educational activities, and electives. The residents are also required to have a minimum of three 4-week blocks, each focusing on a single experience. The three required 4-week blocks are inpatient general medicine, critical care, and management. For the remaining six-months of the program the resident is able to choose between 12- or 4-week blocks.

A large emphasis is placed on resident research projects. Each resident is paired with a project preceptor with research experience to mentor them through the process. In addition, an experienced Research & Development Committee and statistician are available for guidance. Residents are also responsible for obtaining IRB approval and applying for grants to aid in project funding. Research projects are presented at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Eastern States Conference for Residents and Preceptors.

Residents are exposed to a wide variety of additional experiences and opportunities. Some of these include participation in the VABHS P&T and Quality Management committees. Opportunities to design and deliver presentations for ACPE Continuing Education credit are available. VABHS has strong relationships that provide teaching opportunities with the two pharmacy schools in Boston: Northeastern University and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

### **Core Required Experiences**

Primary Care Clinic  
Anticoagulation Clinic  
Inpatient General Medicine  
Critical Care  
Management

### **Elective Experiences**

Cardiac Health  
Endocrinology  
Epoetin Management  
Infectious Disease  
Inpatient Anticoagulation  
Investigational Drugs  
Mental Health  
Oncology  
Advanced Core Experiences

### **Additional Activities**

Medication Use and Evaluation  
P&T Committee  
Continuing Education Presentations  
Practice Management  
Total Quality Management  
Teaching Opportunities

### **Resident Project and Presentation**

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting  
Eastern States Conference

### **Staffing Requirements**

Residents are required to staff one weekend per month in the inpatient pharmacy as well as 4- hours per week in either the inpatient or outpatient setting.

#### **Qualifications for Application:**

1. Citizen of the United States.
2. Must obtain a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited college of Pharmacy or be eligible for graduation before July 1.
3. Eligible for pharmacist licensure in any US state before September 1.

#### **Required Application Materials:**

Material to be uploaded into PhORCAS applications received by any method other than PhORCAS will not be accepted:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Three (3) letters of recommendation
3. Letter of Intent/Personal Statement stating a desire to apply to the Residency Program at the VA Boston Healthcare System and a brief statement of the applicant's short and long term goals as well as why he/she is applying to the VA Boston Healthcare System.

**All application materials must be received by January 2.**

## Interviewing Process:

- A. Applicants invited to interview will do so in person before February 28.
- B. Candidates will be interviewed by the:
  - 1. Residency Program Director
  - 2. Clinical Pharmacy Manager
  - 3. All available preceptors
- C. The applicants will be independently rated using standardized criteria
- D. Selection will be made by a committee consisting of the Program Director, Chief of Pharmacy Service and all preceptors.

Forward questions to:

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**VA Boston Healthcare System's PGY-1 Pharmacy Programs are accredited by American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) and participates in the National Matching Service and PhORCAS.**

**VABHS is fully accredited by the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO)**

**VABHS is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine and Harvard Medical School**