

PGY-1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY

A FOCUS ON AMBULATORY CARE

Overview



The pharmacy residency program at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System is completing its inaugural year. This PGY-1 residency program has been designed to develop practitioners with the high level of skill required to manage patient care as integral members of interdisciplinary teams. Graduates of this program will be successful in both clinical and academic positions. The VA clinics provide primary care as well as a wide variety of medical subspecialty care for veterans throughout the Pacific Basin. Pharmacists manage patients with physicians and nurse practitioners in a practice that has evolved over 30 years. Residents will provide patient care as members of interdisciplinary teams in these clinics. Residents will write progress notes, make pharmacotherapy adjustments, order laboratory and other diagnostic tests, consult other services when indicated, and develop therapeutic and monitoring plans for patient follow-up. All clinical duties will be conducted under direct preceptor supervision and within a specified scope of practice. Most patients are managed by outpatient clinic visits, but telephone follow-up is also part of the care provided. Residents will take an active, direct role in patient care in primary care teams through the medication management service. Patients are seen in these clinics for a wide variety of medical problems. Residents will also provide care as part of a Home-Based Primary Care, Long-Term Care, and Hospice and Palliative Care team. Residents will have the opportunity to develop formulary management, pharmacy informatics, and administrative skills. Residents may choose electives from various other clinics, including hepatitis C, erythropoietin / anemia, mental health, women's health, and rural health.

Completion of a project of the resident's choosing is a longitudinal requirement of this program. Residents work with a pharmacy staff mentor to plan, carry out, and evaluate the results of these projects. The resident's findings are presented at the Western States Pharmacy Residency Conference in May of each year. A final manuscript of the project's results is a requirement for completion of the residency.

All goals and objectives of the PGY1 residency as specified by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists accreditation standards are met by this Residency .



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ALL application materials must be uploaded to

PhORCAS no later than Monday, January 14th, 2013

Application Procedures



Applicants must be a graduate of an American Council of Pharmaceutical Education accredited School of Pharmacy with a Pharm.D. degree. Applicants must have an aptitude and motivation for ambulatory patient care.

Some of the criteria considered in choosing residents include knowledge of professional practice, communication skills and ability to apply theory to practice, leadership ability, interest in the program, confidence, and professionalism.

Candidates wishing to apply to our program are required to submit the following:

- A "letter of intent" stating why you are pursuing a residency position in our program (max. 1 page in length)
- Current curriculum vitae
- A current OFFICIAL transcript from an accredited College of Pharmacy
- Three (3) letters of recommendation. These should be from individuals capable of commenting on your professional capabilities, including: academic ability, communication skills, behavioral attributes (leadership, initiative, dependability, ability to handle multiple tasks, etc.), clinical problem solving skills, an assessment of potential capability to perform research, and any other attributes which will assist us in assessing your ability to flourish and succeed in our program. All comments and information will be held in strictest confidence. The ASHP Resident Recommendation form is **NOT** a substitute for a Letter of Recommendation but may be submitted to supplement information.
- An onsite interview is required.
- Must be a US Citizen

ALL application materials must be uploaded to PhORCAS (Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service) no later than Monday January 14th, 2013. The program will not notify the applicant of their application status (e.g., complete or incomplete). However, the applicant is welcome to inquire if their application is complete. The program will advise applicants with completed applications of their interview status (e.g., invite for interview or no interview) by **January 16th, 2013**. Phone interviews will be conducted from January 21st through January 25th. Onsite interviews will be conducted from January 31st through February 11th.

Please address all correspondence to: Chad Kawakami, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE, PGY1 Residency Program Director, Pharmacy Service (119), VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, 459 Patterson Road, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96819. If you have any questions, please contact me at chad.kawakami@va.gov or (808) 433-0298

**Program Code Number:
171513**



Required Rotations

Primary Care—This learning experience requires the resident to develop skills used to provide pharmaceutical care in an ambulatory clinic setting (*i.e.* Chronic Disease Management, General Primary Care Clinic, and Hepatitis C Clinic). Patients may be referred by other healthcare providers within the clinic or proactively identified for pharmaceutical care intervention by the clinic pharmacist. Activities will focus on assisting patients in reaching therapeutic goals through direct drug therapy management and follow-up monitoring. The resident will adhere to the principles of evidence based disease state management and identify and apply appropriate treatment guidelines to patient care. Under the preceptor's guidance, the resident will serve as the primary drug information resource for the ambulatory clinic. In addition to patient education, the resident will provide drug therapy lectures to clinic staff (as assigned) and respond to drug information requests.

Outpatient Operations – This learning experience requires the resident to gain fundamental knowledge of outpatient pharmacy and mail order pharmacy operations. The resident will learn the processes involved in the medication cycle from physician ordering to delivery to patient. The resident will identify, develop/update, and implement plans for improvement. The resident will also be involved in VISN and local outpatient planning processes; which involves understanding Federal and State laws and regulations.

Pharmacoeconomics - Resident will gain pharmacoeconomics knowledge through involvement in a variety of duties during this rotation, including the implementation of pharmacoeconomic (PE) conversions; review of nonformulary drug requests for appropriateness, safety, and cost-effectiveness, compiling monthly nonformulary reports; monitoring medication utilization to identify areas for improvement and potential cost-savings; management of national and VISN (Veterans Integrated Service Network) cost-saving initiatives; and managing the required tasks needed locally to attain goals of pharmacy performance measures. Requirements for completion of this rotation include completion of criteria for drug use, clinical reviews pertaining to nonformulary or restricted medication requests, and a medication use evaluation.



Pharmacy Informatics - The pharmacy informatics rotation is designed to provide the resident with exposure to the practical application of pharmacy information and automated technology assessment principles in integrated healthcare systems.

The resident will gain experience in and develop a basic understanding of a Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS); Computerized Prescriber Order Entry (CPOE); Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA); pharmacy order entry systems; medication storage and retrieval devices; remote dispensing through telepharmacy; and automated filling, packaging, and dispensing systems. In addition, the resident may be exposed to system databases, system interfaces, clinical drug databases, and clinical decision support. Depending on the service's initiatives during the rotation, the resident may be involved with the planning and implementation of new systems or upgrades of existing systems.

Pharmacy Administration - This learning experience requires the resident to develop leadership and management skills. The resident will spend time with the Chief of Pharmacy, Clinical Coordinator, and the Residency Program Director to gain the knowledge and skills to be able to manage a pharmacy and PGY1 pharmacy residency program. The resident will have the opportunity to attend selected national, VISN, and station administrative meetings, review ethical decision making processes, understand pharmacy operations, and become familiar with residency accreditation and regulatory standards and participate in recruiting and selecting the next residency class. Meetings attended will be at the discretion of the Chief of Pharmacy and/or Clinical Coordinator.

Long Term Care / Palliative Care - This rotation is designed to give the resident an understanding of disease states and the associated treatment encountered in the geriatric patient. This rotation will stress the application of therapeutics in the care of the elderly patient as well as the hospice patient and require the resident to develop the skills in proper drug therapy selection, medication therapy monitoring, and patient / staff education. Successful completion of this rotation will require development of intellectual independence, initiative, and appropriate interactive skills with other health care professionals. Areas of involvement include: Community Living Center and Hospice inpatient unit.

Elective Rotations:

Home Based Primary Care - The Home Based Primary Care team is an interdisciplinary primary care team serving patients that are primarily home-bound. The team consists of a physician (s), psychiatrist, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, dietician, occupational therapist, and two clinical pharmacists. Medical residents, interns, and students train with the HBPC team throughout the year. The HBPC team cares for patients where they reside with goals of reducing hospitalizations, keeping patients functioning safely at home, assessing and treating acute conditions, and improving the management of chronic conditions, and improving quality of life. The HBPC patients are predominantly elderly patients. The pharmacy resident will gain valuable clinical experience managing this complex patient population while working closely with members of all the other health care disciplines.

Research – The resident will be working with investigators, study coordinators, research pharmacist, and research administrative staff in the care of research patients. The resident will learn about FDA and local regulatory requirements for investigational drugs by managing the use of investigational drug products (medications, devices, and biological). The resident may also assist in preparing research pharmacy and related source documents for inspection by sponsors or other regulatory agencies. The resident will review interactions of investigational drugs for each patient. The resident will also assist in reviewing new research-proposals for approval by the Service Chief and IRB Committee. The resident will also be assigned to resolve any issues related to research protocols.

Women's Health – This rotation prepares the pharmacy resident to acquire the skills to perform the responsibilities of a primary care clinical pharmacist with specialized focus in Women's Health. Pharmacy residents will be actively involved in direct patient care including conducting patient interviews, some physical assessment, counseling on medications, medication reconciliation and serving as a liaison and resource to primary care providers. Other activities may include weekly topics and presentations to staff during the rotation. After completion of this rotation, the pharmacy resident should build upon his or her knowledge base of primary care disease states and expand into diseases states or conditions unique to women.

EPO / Hemodialysis – The VA PIHCS Dialysis Unit provides dialysis services to veterans requiring chronic dialysis treatment and also acute dialysis treatment to inpatients requiring dialysis at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). The dialysis unit is located on the 4th floor at TAMC.

In addition to maintaining a Dialysis Unit, pharmacists are involved in anemia and erythropoietin management. This is a medication management clinic specifically for those patient receiving either erythropoietin therapy for treatment of anemia. Patients are managed by a pharmacist and therapy is adjusted based on patient's symptoms and laboratory tests. Some patients require administration of the injections at their clinic visit. This experience includes managing patient's anemia, with a primary emphasis in anemia with chronic kidney disease or anemia of chronic diseases

Mental Health – Residents will be involved in daily activities and direct patient care in the outpatient Mental Health Clinic in collaboration with other mental health clinic providers. Residents will be providing direct patient care through counseling opportunities, psychiatric assessment, disease state management, and acting as a drug information resource for mental health providers. Residents will also assist with VISN performance measures related to mental health including smoking cessation. Residents may also gain experience in pain management in the opioid renewal clinic. Residents also will have opportunities to participate morning rounds with attending physicians and psychiatry residents in an inpatient psychiatric unit.

Hepatitis C - The clinical pharmacy specialist participates in the Hepatitis C Treatment Clinic twice weekly. Primary functions include patient evaluation for hepatitis C Virus (HCV) treatment and follow-up, treatment initiation for HCV and management of adverse effects related to treatment, monitoring patient adherence to prescribed medications, evaluating treatment efficacy and adverse effects, medication adjustments per approved protocol, counseling patients on the proper use of prescribed medications and providing drug information. The pharmacy resident will spend two daily per week in this clinic precepted by a clinical pharmacist and will participate in the Hepatitis C patient education class as assigned.



Longitudinal Rotations

Adverse Drug Monitoring - This is a longitudinal project which is designed to give the resident an understanding and exposure to pharmacy's role in safe medication use. The resident will review the adverse reactions (ADRs) entered into the CPRS core, evaluate their severity and preventability, and document the ADRs in the appropriate database (including VA ADERS, VAERS, MEDWATCH.)

Pharmacoeconomics / Drug Information - Resident will gain pharmacoeconomics knowledge through involvement in a variety of duties during this rotation, including the implementation of pharmacoeconomic (PE) conversions; review of nonformulary drug requests for appropriateness, safety, and cost-effectiveness, compiling monthly nonformulary reports; monitoring medication utilization to identify areas for improvement and potential cost-savings; management of national and VISN (Veterans Integrated Service Network) cost-savings initiatives; and managing the required tasks needed locally to attain goals of pharmacy performance measures. Requirements for completion of this rotation include completion of criteria for drug use, clinical reviews pertaining to nonformulary or restricted medication requests, and a medication use evaluation.

Anticoagulation - This elective learning experience requires the resident to provide pharmaceutical care to patients requiring an oral or injectable anticoagulant. The resident will monitor and assess patients' diagnosis and risk factors for bleeding, and develop and implement therapeutic plans and monitoring. The resident will develop the clinical skills used to accurately assess patient response to therapy and communicate recommendations to other members of the health care team and to the patient. After an initial orientation to the Anticoagulation Clinic, the resident will be assigned one morning each week to staff the clinic.

Outpatient Operations – This learning experience requires the resident to gain fundamental knowledge of outpatient pharmacy and mail order pharmacy operations. The resident will learn the processes involved in the medication cycle from physician ordering to delivery to patient. The resident will identify, develop/update, and implement plans for improvement.. The resident will also be involved in VISN and local outpatient planning processes; which involves understanding Federal and State laws and regulations.

Other Resident Activities

Residency Project: Successful completion of an original research project is a requirement for attainment of a residency certificate. The purpose of the longitudinal project is to develop problem solving skills and to expose residents to research methodology. Residents will choose a primary preceptor for their residency project who will serve as the Primary Investigator for IRB and VA Research and Development Committee approval.

Residents are encouraged to consider several factors when selecting a topic for their major project. First, the topic selected should be one of personal interest to the resident. The needs of the Pharmacy Service should also be considered when selecting a topic. The topic should be relevant to medication use, patient safety, or resource utilization management. Finally, resident projects should be selected with the intent of submitting the results for publication in an appropriate professional journal. All major projects will be presented at the Western States Residency Conference. A manuscript drafted in AJHP format must be submitted for successful completion of the residency.

In-Services - Residents presents a minimum of one formal presentation for each rotation during the year on a topic of the resident's choosing. The purpose of the formal presentations is to improve the Resident's ability to prepare for a formal presentation with handouts, to provide an oral presentation to peers, to provide an opportunity for education for the other residents and staff, and to increase the resident's familiarity with various types of literature associated with pharmacotherapy.

Journal Club - Residents are required to attend and participate in the Pharmacy Residency Journal Club. This activity is coordinated by the Residency Director. Residents present journal articles and support interactive discussions of presented articles.

