

Post Graduate Year One (PGY1) Pharmacy

A Diverse Pharmacy Practice Experience in the Heart of Indianapolis

The PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Veteran Health Indiana was established in 1997. The program emphasizes balanced training in clinical service (in both the inpatient and outpatient care areas), education, and research. Each curriculum is individualized to provide the resident an opportunity to build upon previously acquired knowledge and skills in order to confidently assume a progressive clinical role. Flexibility to accommodate many personal and professional goals for each resident is an important aspect of the residency program.

The residency consists of experience in a broad range of clinical and administrative pharmacy services including::

- Primary and Specialty Ambulatory Care Clinics
- Internal Medicine
- Critical Care
- Medication Safety
- Health-System Administration
- Drug Information

Residents will also have the opportunity to participate in the development of new clinical services.



Throughout the year, residents will focus on the development of sound clinical practice and accountability, which will include assessing the impact of recommendations on patient-care outcomes. A strong desire to learn, a sincere career interest in pharmacy practice, and a dedication to fully meeting all objectives and requirements of the residency program are expected.

Other goals of the program include providing the resident with opportunities for experience in teaching and research. Residents will have several precepting and didactic teaching opportunities at Purdue University and will complete a teaching certificate program.

Residents will also be able to conduct research with clinical faculty and staff at the Medical Center. Residents will be trained in LEAN process improvement and will receive their yellow belt.



Residents will have several other opportunities to present formal presentations and journal clubs to pharmacy preceptors, medical and pharmacy staff, and students. In addition, each resident will present their project at the Great Lakes Residency conference.

This residency will prepare you to:

- Confidently perform as an independent practitioner in a variety of medical settings;
- Become an effective educator, leader, and professional; and
- Develop critical thinking and learning skills.

Clinical Rotations

Clinical rotations are offered in a variety of areas. Activities while on clinical services include medicine rounds, drug therapy monitoring, physical assessment, patient education, serving as a drug information resource, pharmacokinetic monitoring, and attendance at various conferences. Residents will also have the opportunity to become involved in ongoing research projects and teaching/precepting of pharmacy students.

Ambulatory Care (3 months)

Each resident will participate in three unique ambulatory care experiences: anticoagulation, primary care, and specialty clinics. Residents will work in the pharmacy anticoagulation clinic, initiating and monitoring anticoagulation therapy, addressing consults, and triaging patient and provider calls. In primary care, residents will perform medication therapy management under their preceptor's global scope of practice and will primarily manage diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, smoking cessation, and thyroid disease. Specialty clinic options include: Cardiology, Dialysis, Endocrinology, GI, ID, Neurology, Oncology, Palliative Care, Psychiatry, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, and Women's Health. The specific clinics in which the resident participates will be based upon the resident's prior experience and individual interests.

Through involvement in these components, each resident will develop skills in obtaining medication histories, counseling and monitoring patients, performing necessary physical assessment, assessing the appropriateness of medication regimens, and providing appropriate drug information to both patients, physicians, and other members of the healthcare team.



Acute Care (3 months)

Residents will have one internal medicine, one critical care, and one alternative acute care experience of their choice (ED, infectious disease, another ICU, surgery, etc.). Residents will gain experience in the subspecialties of internal medicine including: cardiology, infectious disease, pulmonology, nephrology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, and rheumatology. For critical care, residents will have experience in antibiotic utilization, parenteral nutrition, intravenous cardiac therapy, pharmacokinetics, and post-surgical care. For all areas, residents will participate in advanced cardiac life support situations.



Hospital Operations (1 month each)

Orientation: Residents will be oriented to the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the clinical and operational realms of pharmacy practice within a healthcare system.

Medication Safety: This experience will provide residents with an opportunity to experience the medication-use process within a health-system. Residents will be involved with formulary management, medication use policies and processes, patient safety initiatives, and drug information activities.



Administration: Residents will gain experience in problem solving, policy development, program planning and justification, personnel recruitment and management, financial management, and interprofessional and interdepartmental relations.

Elective Opportunities

Options may include: Endocrinology, Home Care, Infectious Disease, Informatics, Oncology, Palliative Care, Psychiatry, Research, and Surgery.

Stipend and Benefits of the Program

- Stipends are competitive per annual VA standards
- Thirteen vacation days & nine holidays
- Seven professional days for attendance at professional meetings
- Office space with VA provided laptop
- Lab coats and scrubs
- Copying privileges
- Medical Media access for business cards, poster printing, etc.
- VA and University network

The VAMC PGY1 Residency Provides...

- 1) A developed plan for training and experience
 - Opportunities in required rotations with flexibility for electives
 - Ample teaching opportunities
 - Clinical research opportunities
 - Formal presentations
 - Drug distribution experience
 - Teaching certificate program
 - BLS and ACLS certification
 - Yellow Belt training
- 2) Direction for the development of professional goals and objectives
 - Career development and guidance
 - Flexibility to meet interests
 - Mentorship program
- 3) A positive learning environment
 - University teaching hospital
 - Involvement with Purdue University faculty
 - Support from medical and pharmacy staff
 - Encouragement to achieve an independent practice
- 4) Constructive and positive feedback
 - Defined rotation goals
 - Evaluation by preceptors
- 5) Professional contacts
 - Numerous presentations to a variety of healthcare members
 - [Contacts within the VA hospital and across the network](#)

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must be a US citizen, have a PharmD degree or have completed a minimum of three years of practice experience with demonstrated mastery of the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities expected of one who has completed a PharmD degree, and if selected, obtain pharmacy licensure. Previous experience in hospital or community pharmacy practice and a sound academic record are also important considerations.

Application materials must be submitted electronically through PhORCAS.

Application materials are to include a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, transcripts, three reference writers, and a completed supplemental application located on our website.

<https://www.va.gov/indiana-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/indianapolis-vamc-pharmacy-residency-program/>

After applications are reviewed, qualified candidates may be contacted for an initial telephone interview. Remaining qualified candidates will then be contacted for an all-day interview.

For questions or further information, please contact:

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