

# VA Northern California Health Care System Pharmacy Residency Programs



*Sacramento VA Medical Center; Mather, CA*



*VA Martinez Outpatient Clinic; Martinez, CA*

# 2024 Residency Showcase Information



## **ASHP Midyear 2024**

- Residency Showcase
- Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm
- Booth #4165

# VA Northern California Health Care System

The VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) is an integrated health care delivery system, offering a comprehensive array of medical, surgical, rehabilitative, mental health, and extended care to veterans in Northern California. The health system is comprised of a medical center in Sacramento, a rehabilitation and long-term care facility in Martinez – both with associated outpatient clinics – and eleven additional outpatient clinics. The outpatient clinics are located in Auburn, Mare Island, Fairfield, McClellan (Sacramento area), Yuba City, Chico, Redding, Yreka, Stockton, Sonora, and Modesto.

As part of the VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21), VANCHCS provides veterans access to an extensive range of health and specialty services. VISN 21 includes VA medical centers in Sacramento, San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Fresno, California; Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada; and medical facilities in Hawaii, Guam, and Manila.

## **VANCHCS Mission**

Our mission is to provide comprehensive health care services to Veteran patients in a compassionate, high quality, and cost-effective manner. We are committed to achieving customer satisfaction by meeting or exceeding the needs of our patients and staff.



# VA Northern California Health Care System

## Pharmacy Service

### **VANCHCS Pharmacy Service**

The pharmacy service has over 150 pharmacists, 4 PGY1 pharmacy residents, and 1 PGY2 psychiatric pharmacy resident. The Pharmacy Service has formal affiliations with several schools of pharmacy for advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs). Computerized provider order entry is utilized in all settings and bar code recognition technology is in place for verification and documentation of medication administration. The Pharmacy Service has implemented automated technology for many of its dispensing activities. The Inpatient Pharmacy provides 24-hour, hospital-wide unit dose and intravenous admixture services. Pharmacists are assigned to clinical duties in acute care, extended care, primary care, and several other specialty care areas (e.g. mental health, infectious diseases, academic detailing). Clinical services include medication reconciliation, patient monitoring, medication management, discharge counseling, drug information, patient education, pharmacokinetics, drug usage evaluations, and adverse drug event reporting.

### **VANCHCS Pharmacy Service Philosophy and Mission Statement**

The Pharmacy Service commits to provide high quality primary and acute patient care services, education, and research through pharmacist, technician, trainee, and administrative personnel expertise and skills.

Shared responsibility for patient care outcomes results in interdisciplinary teams including pharmacists that provide inpatient and outpatient pharmaceutical care.

Pharmaceutical care involves the identification, resolution, and prevention of drug-related problems affecting patient care outcomes, and encompasses the total spectrum of patient care, education and research.

The Pharmacy Service offers an effective drug use control system to support pharmaceutical care by pharmacists in clinically oriented activities of patient compliance, telephone medicine advice, and pharmacoconomics.

The system for drug use control includes:

- (1) patient-specific drug distribution and administration logistics
- (2) participation in educational and therapeutic decisions supporting rational pharmacotherapy
- (3) consistent drug use monitoring and surveillance documenting and ensuring quality drug therapy outcomes

Attuned to changing trends in healthcare, the Pharmacy Service adapts pharmaceutical care to the need of the veteran patient population by observing and surpassing the most up-to-date standards of practice. To accomplish this, the Pharmacy Service fosters continual staff growth by developing patient education, clinical pharmacology, research, and academic skills.

## **VA Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (I-DEA)**

Addressing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access starts with the leadership of an organization. The VA leadership has made a strong commitment to I-DEA as demonstrated in the [VA I-DEA Strategic Plan](#).

*I-DEA Vision Statement:* To advance an inclusive environment that values and supports the diverse communities we serve – employees, Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors – and cultivates equitable access to care, benefits, and services for all. It is our vision that VA is the leader in public service in creating a high-performing workforce by capitalizing on its diversity, purposefully embracing inclusion, and empowering all employees to perform to their highest potential.

Part of the strategic plan focuses on building “a diverse, high-performing workforce” by expanding “partnerships and recruitment to include diverse affinity organizations, professional associations and educational institutions to perform recruitment outreach focusing on promoting workforce diversity”. (See pages 15-17)

VANCHCS Mental Health Service holds monthly Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) teleconferences for each site. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend.



[VA Pharmacy Residency Program - Pharmacy Benefits Management Services](#)

# Pharmacy Residency Programs

Program	Residents	Established	Accreditation
PGY1 Pharmacy	4	1980	ASHP
PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy	1	2015	ASHP



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# Applicant Qualifications and Process

## APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

- Register with the National Matching Service (NMS).
- Possess United States citizenship.
- Possess a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited School or College of Pharmacy.
- PGY2 applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency or have equivalent experience. PGY2 applicants must also hold current pharmacist licensure in a State of the United States.

### Procedure for Verification of PGY1 Program Completion:

Incoming PGY2 residents must provide a copy of the PGY1 certificate of completion prior to the PGY2 residency start date that is to be uploaded into the resident's share drive folder by the RPD. If the incoming PGY2 resident is unable to provide a certificate of completion prior to the residency start date, the RPD may also use PharmAcademic™ or direct communication with the resident's PGY1 residency program director to verify PGY1 residency completion. If direct communication with the RPD is utilized for PGY1 verification prior to the start of the residency, a certificate of PGY1 completion must be provided within 30 days of the resident start date. If completion of a PGY1 residency cannot be verified by any of the above methods, the offer of employment will be withdrawn.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### **VA Nationwide Early Commitment (VANEC) Process for Post-Graduate Year 2 (PGY2) Residency Programs VA Pharmacy Residency Program Office (PRPO)**

Post-Graduate Year 2 (PGY2) Pharmacy Residency Program across the VA Health Care System may offer an early commitment process following guidelines established by the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) and National Matching Service (NMS), also known as the Match, to any VA PGY1 resident. The following is the VA's formal written procedure for application, interview, and selection of PGY2 residents. **Each program may opt in or out of this process on a yearly basis.** Programs can join/participate in VANEC during Phase 1, 2, or Scramble.

### Procedure for PGY2 Programs in the VANEC Process:

1. The RPD will register the program on the PRPO Early Commitment SharePoint Database no later than October 31, 2024, and include the following. The final SharePoint list of PGY2 programs participating in VANEC will open to PGY1 applicants November 1, 2024.
  - a. Location
  - b. Site Number
  - c. RPD Name

- d. RPD Email
- e. Link to website and or program recruitment material
- f. PGY2 program type
- g. Number of Position for PGY2s for Early Commitment
- h. All materials required for application to the program (e.g., LOI, CV, 3 LORs, PhORCAS transcripts)
- i. Application deadline
- j. Date Filled

2. The PGY2 RPD will adhere to the following timeline for interviewing and offering positions:

Phase	Candidates	Program Offer(s) (Acceptance e-mail is sent to candidate upon verbal acceptance)	Candidate Acceptance (Program e-mail to candidate accepting position is binding contract and cannot be changed)	NMS Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If process not completed by deadline, position carries over to next stage and enters EXTERNAL Positions</li> <li>• SharePoint database must be updated at each phase</li> </ul>
1	Internal to Site Only*	Per individual program but no later than October 31 by 1:00pm ET	October 31 by 4:00pm ET	First Monday in November by 4:00pm ET; Resident electronically accepts position through the NMS portal.
2a	Internal and External	On the Fourth Monday of November between 1:00-4:00pm ET	No more than one business day after offer by 1:00pm ET	Within same day of acceptance of offer resident must electronically accept the position through the NMS portal. If this does not occur, the RPD has the right to offer the position to the next candidate the next day.
2b		Tuesday between 1:00-4:00pm ET	Wednesday of the same week by 1:00pm ET	
2c		Wednesday between 1:00-4:00pm ET	Thursday of the same week by 1:00pm ET	
3	Scramble	Monday the week after Phase 2 at 1:00pm ET  Closes December 20**	No more than one business day after offer by 4:00pm ET <i>(if resident declines, RPD can move to next candidate immediately)</i>	Within same day of acceptance of offer resident must electronically accept the position through the NMS portal. If this does not occur, the RPD has the right to offer the position to the next candidate the next day or until Dec 20** at 4:00pm ET

\*If a program has no internal candidates, external applications may be accepted at any time and interviews conducted at any time. Offers will be made NO SOONER than listed in Phase 2 above.

\*\*The NMS early commitment deadline is TBD by the NMS and ASHP but is usually the third Friday in December.

3. The PGY2 RPD must offer a position to the PGY1 resident, and the PGY1 resident must commit to accepting the position online via the NMS system. Programs that fill their position through the early commitment process must immediately access the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS) and close the program for applications.



4. Once a PGY2 position is accepted, the RPD must email all applicants that the position has been filled and the early commit process is complete.
5. The PGY2 residency program will pay a non-refundable fee to the NMS for each position committed to a resident through the early commitment process.
6. After the date that is established by the NMS, the residency program will not make early commitment offers and will only offer positions through the NMS.

Procedure for PGY1 residents in the VANEC Process:

1. The applicant must be a current PGY1 resident at any VA Health Care System
2. All VA PGY1 residents will be informed during orientation that VA PGY2 residency programs offer the potential for early commitment for the year immediately following the successful completion of their PGY1 residency.
  - a. PGY1 residents will be informed of the timeline for the VANEC Process in a given academic year. It is the PGY1 RPD's responsibility to inform their PGY1 residents of the VANEC Process during orientation. PRPO will communicate the VANEC Process to incoming PGY1 residents during the Pharmacy Residency Conference Call Series in July. It is the resident's responsibility to ensure that the deadlines for any communication are met to participate in this nationwide process.
  - b. PGY1 residents should request an early rotation in an area of PGY2 interest. Every reasonable effort will be made to give a scheduled rotation or concentrated shadow experience to any PGY1 resident who declares a sincere interest in pursuing the VANEC Process to continue their training for a second year at any VA Health Care System. This experience is intended to help the resident make an informed decision regarding the second year of training by maximizing their exposure to the specialty practice before a commitment is finalized.
3. PGY1 residents interested in participating in the VANEC Process must review the PRPO Early Commitment SharePoint Database for required application materials to individual sites.
4. Only PGY1 residents in good standing will be considered for early commitment to a VA PGY2 residency program. Good standing is determined by the local site's Residency Advisory Committee and RPD review of the following:
  - a. The majority of the resident's summative evaluations in PharmAcademic demonstrate that the PGY1 resident is making satisfactory progress and is anticipated to successfully complete the PGY1 residency program requirements by the conclusion of the training program.
  - b. There is no evidence of transgression as outlined in the residency program policies and procedures.
5. Before approving a PGY1 candidate's early commitment to a PGY2 position, an interview may be scheduled. Interviews for the VANEC Process may take place at any time if there is no internal candidate.
6. Initial offers will be made to PGY1 residents either verbally or in writing abiding by the specified dates and times in the table above.
7. Once a candidate accepts the verbal or written offer, the PGY2 RPD must offer the position to the PGY1 resident online via the NMS system. The PGY1 resident must commit to accepting the position online via the NMS system as soon as possible.

- No changes, modifications, or exceptions to the policy will be made without the approval of the VA Pharmacy Residency Advisory Board.
- Decisions regarding the VANEC Process will be considered final.
- Questions regarding this process should be addressed to individual PGY2 RPD.

### **Regular Application Process**

- All application materials must be submitted through PhORCAS, as below (no late submission accepted):
  - **Phase I Deadline for PGY2 Program: January 8, 2025**
  - **Phase II Deadline for PGY Program (if applicable): March 31, 2025**
- Submitted materials must include (all materials must be submitted through PhORCAS):
  - Official transcripts from School/College of Pharmacy (sent directly to PhORCAS from your school)
    - Transcript must be official and indicate Pharm.D. degree was conferred.
  - Personal Statement/Letter of Intent
  - Curriculum Vitae
    - Include details of rotation activities for in-progress, completed, and to-be completed rotations. Include duration spent on each rotation. Also, include details of extracurricular activities.
  - Three letters of recommendation using the standardized reference template in PhORCAS
  - Supplemental information
    - PGY2 applicants: Copy of pharmacist license, VA Form #10-2850D
    - The VA Form #10-2850D (Application for Health Professions Trainees) is accessible at <http://www.va.gov/oaa/archive/vaform10-2850d.pdf>.
- Selected PGY2 applicants will be invited to interviews occurring in February. An interview is required. Interviews will take place on-site or virtually.

# General Residency Information

## Pay and Benefits

- Period of Appointment
  - PGY2: 12 months, from July 2025 through July 2026
- Estimated Stipend
  - PGY2: \$57,465
- Benefits
  - 13 days of Annual Leave (“vacation”) and 13 days of Sick Leave
    - Sick Leave is earned at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks and can be used for illness and injury as well as medical, dental, optical and other medically-related appointments or procedures
  - 11 paid federal holidays
  - Financial support (if available) to attend selected professional meetings
  - Federal Employee Health Benefits (medical insurance)

## Pharmacist Licensure

Current licensure in at least one State of the United States is required at the time of application to the residency program. Therefore, all PGY2 residents are expected to be licensed prior to the start of the residency experience and will furnish VANCHCS with a copy of licensure. The residency experience is directly related to the status of licensure. Without licensure, skill building will be minimized leading to a less than optimal residency experience. Please note that out-of-state residents are welcome to pursue licensure in California, but it is not a requirement for working at VANCHCS. The only requirement is that the resident be licensed in at least one state of choice.

# PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency

## Program Overview

### Program Purpose

The VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) PGY2 psychiatric pharmacy residency program builds on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and PGY1 pharmacy residency programs to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists in the specialized area of psychiatric pharmacy practice. This PGY2 residency program provides residents with opportunities to function independently as practitioners by conceptualizing and integrating accumulated experience and knowledge and incorporating both into the provision of patient care that improves medication therapy in individuals with psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Residents who successfully complete this PGY2 pharmacy residency will possess competencies that qualify them for clinical pharmacist and/or faculty positions and position them to be eligible for attainment of board certification in psychiatric pharmacy practice.

### Description of VANCHCS Mental Health Services

VANCHCS provides mental health services to an adult population with diagnoses including major depression, anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, trauma and stress-related disorders, and more.

The Sacramento campus offers outpatient mental health services in Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP), PTSD Clinical Team (PCT), Addiction Recovery Treatment Service (ARTS), Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) and inpatient acute stabilization in the 16-bed Behavioral Health Inpatient Care Unit (BHICU).

The system employs one inpatient, nine BHIP outpatient, two substance use disorder, and two PCMHI Psychiatric Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners, all of whom function as members of psychiatric interdisciplinary care teams.

### Facility

The resident is based at the Sacramento VA Medical Center campus. Most activities will occur from this site.

### **For additional information, contact:**

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*ASHP accredits the PGY2 psych pharmacy residency program at VANCHCS*

# PGY2 Residency Program Structure

## Program Structure

The PGY2 program begins with 3 weeks of orientation followed by a 12 week block in outpatient mental health. This will be followed by an 10-12 week block in inpatient mental health to round out the first half of the residency year, dependent on availability of the preceptors. This serves to fully immerse the resident within the mental health service in order to build a solid practical and clinical foundation. The resident will complete an 8 week rotation in Substance Use Disorders and can choose to complete a 6-8 week rotation in either Neurology or Pain Management to meet ASHP requirements. The resident will maintain outpatient clinical responsibilities longitudinally for the remainder of the residency year. Other longitudinal experiences include Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM), Mental Health Didactics, Pharmacy Administration and Professional Development, and Residency Project. Electives will be chosen to fill out the second half of the year based on the resident's interests. The program structure during the second half of the year is designed to allow the PGY2 resident to fully experience and balance the myriad responsibilities of a specialty psychiatric pharmacist.

If the inpatient mental health pharmacy preceptor is not available during the usual block, this rotation will be completed at another time during the year and electives will be completed in its place.

	<b>PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy</b>
<b>Required Rotations</b>	<p>Orientation</p> <p>Outpatient Mental Health</p> <p>Inpatient Mental Health</p> <p>Outpatient Mental Health Precepting</p> <p>Substance Use Disorders</p> <p>Pharmacy Administration and Professional Development</p> <p>Mental Health Didactics</p> <p>Pharmacy Benefits Management and Performance Improvement</p> <p>Residency Project</p>
<b>Selective Rotations</b>	<p>Pain Management</p> <p>Neurology</p>
<b>Elective Rotations</b>	<p>Mental Health Transitions of Care</p> <p>Primary Care Mental Health Integration</p> <p>Other learning experiences to match resident interests</p>
<b>Locations</b>	Sacramento, CA: 1 resident
<b>ASHP Program Code</b>	92123
<b>NMS Code</b>	723466

# **First Position Accepted Post-Residency 2015-2024 Classes**

## **PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residents**

- **Outpatient mental health pharmacist at Kaiser South San Jose**
- **Rural health clinical pharmacist practitioner, mental health at VA Northern California (x2 graduates)**
- **Rural health clinical pharmacist practitioner, pain management at VA Northern California**
- **Outpatient mental health clinical pharmacist practitioner at VA Northern California (x3 graduates)**
- **Substance Use Disorder clinical pharmacist practitioner at VA Northern California**
- **Outpatient mental health clinical pharmacist practitioner at VA Loma Linda**



**VA** | U.S. Department  
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