



VA Center for Medication Safety

VA MedSAFE is a comprehensive pharmacovigilance program that has developed and implemented numerous national programs to monitor the safe and effective use of medications in VA. VA MedSAFE conducts and promotes medication safety at regional and national levels, provides interventions to decrease preventable ADEs, and educates the field on practices to minimize ADEs. The Center translates research and published evidence into national policy through its cooperative arrangements with pharmacy leaders, the Medical Advisory Panel, and other departments within VA.

VA MedSAFE has received national recognition for its efforts in drug safety and, as a result, collaborates closely with the FDA to evaluate the significance of known adverse drug reactions, in addition to identifying and tracking new and emerging drug safety issues. For more information on VA MedSAFE and VA PBM, visit the link below:

<https://www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/index.asp>

PHILOSOPHY

The medication-use safety and policy residency at the VA Center for Medication Safety instills a philosophy that pharmacists must take the lead in multidisciplinary efforts to improve the safe and appropriate use of medications in any health care setting.

Residents from the program will be qualified for any of the following positions:

- Pharmacy medication safety officer
- Pharmacy leader responsible for monitoring and resolving ADEs in a health system, managed care area, or drug safety oversight agency (e.g., ISMP, FDA, CDC)
- Drug use management pharmacist
- Study researcher in an industry setting
- Medication-use safety/policy faculty
- Fellowships in medication-use safety

PGY2 MEDICATION-USE SAFETY AND POLICY

Pharmacovigilance

Medication Safety

National Formulary



VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services [PBM]
& Center for Medication Safety [VA MedSAFE]

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Assessing safe and effective medication-use systems and policies
- Medication-use data collection and analysis
- Designing safe and effective medication-use systems/policies
- Drug shortages and supply interruptions
- Medication-use technology
- Medication-use research
- Leadership and management
- Teaching, education, and dissemination of knowledge

ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

- Longitudinal research projects and publication worthy manuscript
- Longitudinal pharmacovigilance projects
- Data validation and data analyses projects for VA MedSAFE/VA PBM & FDA
- ADE report evaluations
- National formulary management activities
- Education to health care professionals on medication-use safety issues and initiatives
- National medication use evaluations at multiple stages of development & release
- Medication safety newsletter articles and drug safety alerts authorship/contribution
- Medical center level medication-use safety initiatives
- Presentation at a regional or national professional meeting
- Formal presentation to VA PBM/MedSAFE
- Professional portfolio



ROTATIONS

REQUIRED:

- Pharmacovigilance
- Medication-Use Safety Research
- Medication Use Evaluations
- VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System
- Medication Use Risk Reduction and Population Management
- Drug Safety Alerts
- Administration
- Medical Center Medication-Use Safety

ELECTIVE:

- Drug Information
- Informatics
- VISN Medication-Use Safety
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Patient Care
- And many more!

SALARY & BENEFITS

- Estimated Stipend: ~\$57,172
- 13 Vacation Days
- 13 Sick Days
- 11 Paid Federal Holidays
- Healthcare Benefits
- On-site Gym Access
- Free Parking

Positions Available: One (1) Resident

Match Code: 634077

Starting Date: July (beginning of pay period)



QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Degree
- Completion of a first-year residency
- U.S. Citizenship
- Pharmacy licensure in one of the States or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia

APPLICATION

- Letter of Intent/Personal Statement
- Three (3) Letters of Reference
- Curriculum Vitae
- Pharmacy School Transcripts
- Phone/Video and/or Onsite Interview
- Presentation (20 minutes) for Interview

This program participates in PHORCAS.

**Applications must be submitted by:
January 27, 2025**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dr. Aspinall is a clinical pharmacy specialist with VA MedSAFE and a core faculty member of the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is also an Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh. She has successfully mentored numerous pharmacy residents throughout her career with the VA as both a residency program director and preceptor. As a well-trained researcher in the areas of pharmacoconomics, health services, and outcomes research, her work with VA MedSAFE focuses on the safe, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medications.



LOCATION

Situated just outside of the western city limits of Chicago, accessible by public transportation, and less than a half-hour drive from Downtown Chicago, the VA MedSAFE and PBM offices are located at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois.

National Office

1st Avenue-1 Block North of Cermak Road
Building 37; Room 139
Hines, Illinois 60141