

Who We Are

Progressive and flexible – you'll find your home here at the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, Omaha, NE. Our residents thrive in our tight-knit pharmacy family. From providers and nurses to technicians and other support personnel, the entire facility is invested in your success as a resident!

We can't wait to hear from you and look forward to the opportunity to further introduce you to the programs available at the VA NWIHCS.

Connect With Us

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Please visit our website for more information:



ASHP Accredited PGY1 PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Programs



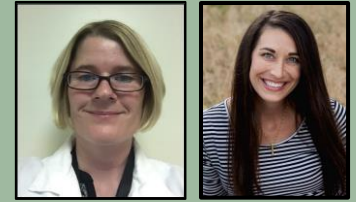
**VANEBRASKA-WESTERN IOWA
Health Care System
Omaha, NE**

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Dear Colleague,

You've reached another exciting milestone in your pharmacy journey, congratulations! Choosing where to apply for your residency will be one of the most important decisions as you start your career. Undoubtedly, a variety of diverse practice experiences will accelerate your learning and shape the vision of your practice for many years to come!



Therefore, at VA NWHCS, we want to provide you with the necessary information to allow you to serve as an advocate for your future and make informed decisions. This document provides a general overview of our pharmacy residency programs; however, we are committed to making ourselves available to answer your questions in greater detail. Our primary goal is for you to complete your evaluation process with a clear understanding of what it's like to be a pharmacy resident at the VA NWHCS. We offer six positions within our accredited PGY1 Pharmacy residency program and three positions within our accredited PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency program. Omaha, NE serves as the primary practice site for both the PGY1 residency program and PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency program. However, the PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency program is a multi-site program, allowing residents to complete up to 60% of their rotations at the rural Grand Island location if preferred. We strive to continually assess and refine our programs, fostering a practice environment that promotes learning to advance clinical skills, develop personal and professional skills, and discover leadership capabilities. Our program leadership and preceptor teams are proud to be a part of the success of our residents and beyond, with many of our past graduates remaining employed within the VA NWHCS. But the greatest accomplishment is assisting with achieving your goals, because we believe when you succeed, we all succeed! As you research the many residency programs available, we encourage you to be curious and thoughtful in exploring what the VA NWHCS residency programs have to offer. If you believe the VA NWHCS is a perfect fit that will afford you the opportunity to take next step in your professional development, we welcome your application! If you would like to speak with additional pharmacy personnel or residents who can offer greater insight into our programs, please do not hesitate to contact us. Good luck in your pursuit and welcome to residency!

Best,

Michaela Hrady, PharmD – PGY1 Residency Program Director
 Lisa Bilsend, PharmD, BCACP – PGY2 Ambulatory Care Program Director



Residency Training at VA NWIHCS

Training at VA NWIHCS prepares you for any practice setting through opportunities in high volume primary care clinics, anticoagulation services, mental health, specialty electives, leadership/management, and project development. In addition, PGY1 residents are offered unique experiences with acute care interdisciplinary medical teams, outpatient pharmacy services, or subacute care at the Community Living Center (CLC).

You will be guided by clinical experts with years of experience in hands-on instruction

A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

- PGY1 program: established in 2009, expanded to six positions in 2024
- PGY2 Ambulatory Care program: established in 2019, expanded to three positions in 2024 with Omaha as primary practice site
- RPDs meet with residents monthly as a group and quarterly on an individual basis to assess resident progress, interests and goals. The well-rounded programs are comprehensive and flexible to match the career goals of each resident.

Our Culture of Continuous Improvement



Our residency programs are firmly rooted in ASHP accreditation standards with the goal of maintaining continual state of accreditation readiness

We regularly evaluate and improve our alignment with ASHP through self-assessment, leadership & team review, guidance from ASHP accreditation surveyors, and most importantly, feedback from our residents and graduates.

HOW YOU BENEFIT

- You have a voice in developing and improving our programs
- As interests change or new needs arise, we expand or refine the scope of our programs to support your growth and development
- You have the flexibility to design and execute rotations across our entire health care system to achieve desired goals and objectives
- Our leadership team and preceptors share a commitment to learning and constantly pursue development opportunities to serve you better

About Us: VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

VA NWIHCS is an integrated health care system with multi-campus clinics available for Veterans across the state of Nebraska and communities in western Iowa and northern Kansas. Our medical center in Omaha is an acute care facility with multiple specialty clinics, outpatient and inpatient substance abuse treatment programs. Lincoln is exclusively outpatient clinics. The Grand Island Medical Center is home to outpatient clinics, a few specialties, subacute inpatient care, and a residential substance abuse treatment program.

Across the VA NWIHCS, we have satellite locations providing outpatient services in North Platte, Holdrege, Norfolk, Bellevue and Shenandoah, IA.



VA NWIHCS RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Throughout the residency year, PGY1 and PGY2 residents will work together with preceptors from across the integrated health care system. This collaboration and networking afford residents with more peers and support during this year of ongoing learning/training. Residents will have monthly meetings with the leadership team and share monthly presentations to the pharmacy department across all campuses.

PGY1 Positions: 6

PGY2 Ambulatory Care Positions: 3

ASHP Program Purpose Statements

PGY1 PROGRAM PURPOSE

PGY1 residency programs build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives. Residents who successfully complete PGY1 residency programs will be skilled in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education, and be prepared to provide patient care, seek board certification in pharmacotherapy (i.e., BCPS), and pursue advanced education and training opportunities including postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies.

PGY2 PROGRAM PURPOSE

PGY2 residency programs build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and PGY1 pharmacy residency training to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives for advanced practice areas. Residents who successfully complete PGY2 residency programs are prepared for advanced patient care or other specialized positions, and board certification in the advanced practice area, if available.

Clinical Pharmacy

Ambulatory Care (primary care, mental health & anticoagulation)

Residents will gain experience working in a fast-paced clinic environment with close relationships with primary care providers. On average 8-14 patients per day are scheduled in each pharmacist-run clinic. Residents will participate in face-to-face, phone and virtual visits for a well-rounded experience.

Given our well-established practice, providers rely on the clinical pharmacy team for the latest information from clinical trials and actively seek input from the pharmacy team in managing chronic diseases.

Here at NWI, we stretch the limits of our general scope of practice and routinely manage diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, congestive heart failure, hypothyroidism, gout, COPD, mental health, polypharmacy and many other chronic diseases. Our visits are truly comprehensive.

Specialty Clinics (PGY2s only)

Residents will integrate into several required specialty clinics, including cardiology, pain and PCMHI clinics. Residents will choose from a variety of elective experiences to round out their year.

Acute Care (PGY1s only)

PGY1 residents will complete at least two rotations in acute care and round with medicine teams daily. Veterans at our facility are admitted with an assortment of complex disease states and medication regimens, which allows the resident to become a vital team member and assist with pharmacotherapy optimization and duration. Additionally, residents will gain independence in their pharmacy practice with hands-on opportunities to provide care in both the inpatient and outpatient pharmacies.

Advanced clinical services are provided by pharmacists throughout the VA NWIHCS in a variety of inpatient, outpatient, subacute and specialty settings. We have expanded outpatient clinics in PCMHI, pain, and cardiology as well as weight loss medicine clinics.

Our Residency Graduates

PGY1

- 24 former residents are working within VA NWIHCS
- Many former graduates are at other VAs across the nation
 - Director of pharmacy, ambulatory care, inpatient and outpatient pharmacy, RPD, specialty services
- 2 current PGY2s, psychiatry and internal medicine

PGY2

Our PGY2 graduates are Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners, practicing within the VA or other ambulatory care systems.

- Pain/Whole Health – Omaha VA (VA NWIHCS)
- PACT – William S. Middleton VA (Madison, WI)
- PACT – Grand Island VA (VA NWIHCS)
- Ambulatory Care Float – Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN)

PGY1 Residency

Required Rotations (4 weeks)	Elective Opportunities x5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation (2 weeks) • Inpatient Pharmacy Operations • Outpatient Pharmacy Operations • Anticoagulation • PACT 1 • Acute Care 1 • ID • Practice Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academia • Academic Detailing • Acute Care 2 • Cardiology • CLC • Emergency Medicine • Geriatrics/HBPC • Hematology/Oncology • Infectious Disease • Informatics • Mental Health 1 & 2 • PACT 2 • Pain/Whole Health • PCMHI • Pharmacoeconomics • Surgery • Medication Safety • Women's Health
Longitudinal Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Information • Pharmacy Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outpatient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One day every third week, 12:30p – 4:30p ▪ One out of six Saturdays, 8:00a – 4:30p ○ Inpatient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One day every third week, 4p – 8p ▪ One day every third weekend, 8a – 4:30p ▪ One minor holiday • Residency Project • Teaching Certificate 	

The PGY1 year is designed to provide residents with comprehensive experience(s) throughout the entire landscape of pharmacy service. We pride our program on developing residents who can adapt to a variety of pharmacy practice areas, including early commitment to our PGY2 Ambulatory Care program if interested.

PGY2 Ambulatory Care

Core experiences	Specialty Rotations (6 week rotations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation (2 weeks) • PACT (4 weeks)^δ • Anticoagulation (4 weeks)^δ • HBPC (4 weeks)^δ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain clinic^δ • Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)⁺ • Cardiology Clinic^δ <p>Elective Opportunities (x3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academia⁺ • Academic Detailing^δ • CBOC PACT • Endocrine Clinic⁺ • Geriatrics/HBPC^δ • Residency Management^δ • Specialty Rotation⁺ • Women's Health⁺
Longitudinal Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residency Project • Teaching Certificate if not completed during PGY1 • Practice Management (0.5 day per week) • After core rotations - Choose: PACT or HBPC (1 day per week) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Others can be developed based on resident interest <p>^δcan be completed from Omaha or Grand Island ⁺must be completed from Omaha</p>	

Omaha serves as the primary practice site for the PGY2 program; however, many of the required and elective experiences are offered at our rural Grand Island VA location (housing provided) or virtually. This opportunity allows residents to gain experience in a different practice site/clinic to help grow their skills.

The primary care clinics at VA NWIHCS are robust and progressive. The volume of patients and the variety of disease states managed by the pharmacists are unmatched within the VA. Residents will gain valuable experiences in longitudinal management of core disease states in the PACT clinics, anticoagulation and HBPC as well as required/elective specialty rotations. Residents will hone their precepting skills as they mentor PGY1 residents in clinic and for projects.

Admission Requirements

VA NWIHCS residency programs are available to PharmD graduates of ACPE-accredited colleges of pharmacy. Interview consideration requires:

- U.S. Citizenship, fluent in English language
- Letter of Intent
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three Completed Standard PhORCAS Residency Applicant Recommendation Requests
- Official College of Pharmacy transcripts
- Eligible for licensure in any of the 50 US states or the District of Columbia

*Virtual interviews will be conducted

Additional Requirements for PGY2 Applicants*

- Enrolled in or graduate of ASHP-accredited or candidate-status PGY1 pharmacy residency
- PGY1 RPD must be one of the selected references
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete a minimum of one ambulatory care/primary care rotation prior to application submission

Regular Match Application Deadline: January 8

Early Commitment

Application Deadline: early November (refer to VANEC listing)

**Residents in good standing currently completing PGY1 at any VA are eligible for early commitment to the PGY2 program (application is completed outside of PhORCAS)*

- U.S. Citizenship, fluent in English language
- Eligible for licensure in any of the 50 US states or the District of Columbia
- Letter of Intent
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three references: applicants will provide blank form to preceptors and reference writers will email directly to RPD
 - PGY1 RPD must be one of the selected references
 - Clinical preceptor, ideally from ambulatory care PGY1 rotation

VA NWIHCS



*a great place to start your career
NWI 2024-2025 Residents*

Benefits

- Stipend (PGY1: \$48,415 – PGY2: \$51,786)
- Comprehensive health benefits package, including dental/vision
- 11 Federal holidays
 - PGY1s: staff one minor holiday with day off in lieu of holiday
- 13 days annual leave, 13 days sick leave
- Travel assistance to regional conference and ASHP MidYear as available