

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 links below:

<https://www.pbm.va.gov/VACenterForMedicationSafetyIndex.asp>

<http://www.pbm.va.gov>

PHILOSOPHY

The medication-use safety 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
- Research faculty in academia
- Fellowships in medication-use safety

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Function as an effective leader and authoritative resource on medication use safety
- Develop a vision and conduct the planning in pursuit of an ideal safe medication use system for an organization
- Represent the medication use safety perspective when considering the design of technology and automation systems
- Manage changes in the medication use system
- Collect medication use data and use appropriate data analysis techniques to identify needed improvements in the medication use system
- Conduct medication use safety research

ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

- Longitudinal research project and publication worthy manuscript
- Longitudinal pharmacovigilance projects
- Data validation and data analyses projects for VA MedSAFE/VA PBM & FDA
- ADE report evaluations
- Internal improvements in ADE reporting
- Education to health care professionals on medication use safety issues and initiatives
- National medication utilization evaluations at multiple stages of development & release
- Ten medication safety newsletter articles and distribution of timely drug safety alerts
- Regional and medical center level medication use safety initiatives
- Presentation at a regional or national professional meeting
- Formal seminar of interview quality
- Professional portfolio



ROTATIONS

REQUIRED:

- Pharmacovigilance
- Medication Use Safety Research
- National Medication Use Evaluations
- Medication Use Evaluation Trackers/VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System
- National Drug Safety Communications
- VISN and Medical Center Level Medication Use Safety Initiatives

ELECTIVE:

- Medication Use Safety Informatics
- Medication Use Safety Administration
- Pharmacoepidemiology Research
- Center for Drug Evaluation and Research /Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at FDA
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- And many more!

SALARY & BENEFITS

- Estimated Stipend: \$49,713
- 13 Vacation Days
- 13 Sick Days
- ~10 Paid Federal Holidays
- Healthcare Benefits
- On-site Gym Access
- Free Parking

Positions available: One (1) Resident
Match Code: 634077
Starting Date: July 1st



QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) 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
- Onsite Interview
- Presentation (20 minutes) for Interview

This program participates in PHORCAS.

**Applications must be submitted by:
January 25, 2019**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sherrie Aspinall, Pharm.D., MSc, BCPS

E-mail : Sherrie.Aspinall@va.gov

Phone: 708-786-7882 Fax: 708-786-7891

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 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



PGY2

MEDICATION USE SAFETY

Pharmacovigilance

Outcomes

Medication Safety



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

www.pbm.va.gov