

Veteran Affairs Providence Healthcare System

Pharmacy Residency Programs

PGY-1 Pharmacy (3)

PGY-2 Ambulatory Care (1)

PGY-2 Psychiatric (1)

Updated November 2024



Residency Program History

The Veteran Affairs Providence Healthcare System (VAPHS) residency program was established in 1994. In 2007, the postgraduate year two (PGY-2) Ambulatory Care Pharmacy program and the postgraduate year one (PGY-1) Pharmacy program were established to provide more residency training opportunities to today's pharmacy graduates. In 2013, a PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency and an additional PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency were added. All PGY-1 and PGY-2 residency programs at VAPHS are accredited by ASHP.



VAPHS is a 119-bed general medicine and surgical teaching hospital, which provides comprehensive patient care. The medical center provides all major diagnostic and treatment specialties, including comprehensive inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services. The outpatient ambulatory care clinics support over 150,000 patient-visits per year in more than 32 primary and specialty care clinics. VAPHS also serves as a teaching facility for The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy (URI), and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS).

The Pharmacy Service

The pharmacy service features a department consisting of 73 full time employees, which includes 34 pharmacists, 19 pharmacy technicians, 1 administrative officer, and 7 intermittent positions. Currently, there are 15 clinical pharmacy specialists practicing in either ambulatory care or psychiatry. There are also 5 trainees, consisting of three PGY-1 residents and two PGY-2 residents. The outpatient pharmacy consists of 8 full time pharmacists, 10 full time technicians, and 4 part time technicians. The inpatient pharmacy provides hospital-wide unit dose and intravenous admixture services. This includes 6 full time pharmacists, 9 full time technicians, and 6 intermittent positions. Both the inpatient and outpatient pharmacies utilize automated dispensing technologies wherever possible including the Pyxis and Script Pro systems, as well as a comprehensive electronic medical record.

The Clinical Pharmacy Service

In addition to traditional clinical pharmacy services, there has been a concentrated effort to offer advanced clinical pharmacy practice services in the ambulatory care setting. All the clinical pharmacy specialists at VAPHS work under an advanced scope of practice that includes disease-specific prescribing authority. These pharmacists are embedded in Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) in primary care and focus on disease state management. Pharmacist-managed clinics include diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, smoking cessation, psychiatry, anticoagulation, weight management, home-based primary care (HBPC/geriatrics), and advanced cardiology. Other responsibilities include drug information, patient education, drug usage evaluations, and formulary management. Residency rotations are also available with URI faculty who have teaching sites at VAPHS.

The City of Providence

Providence is the capital city of Rhode Island, also known as the “Ocean State.” As the “creative capital,” Providence offers a thriving arts community, vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, a renowned restaurant scene, and a rich historical background. Boston is an hour away, and New York City is easily accessible. For outdoor enthusiasts, Rhode Islanders enjoy beautiful beaches, numerous parks, hiking trails, biking paths, kayaking, and boating opportunities. For more information visit: <http://www.goprovidence.com>.

Overview of the PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residencies

PGY-1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions, eligible for board certification, and eligible for PGY-2 pharmacy residency training.

Outcome Competencies:

- Manage and improve the medication-use process
- Provide evidence-based, patient-centered care and collaborate with other healthcare professionals to optimize patient care
- Exercising leadership and practice management skills
- Demonstrating project management skills
- Provide medication and practice-related information, education, and/or training
- Utilizing medical informatics

Objectives of the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program:

- Function as a highly competent pharmacy generalist who can function in multiple roles within a pharmacy system
- Participate in medication use evaluation and drug policy development
- Evaluate a patient’s medical record and medication profile and obtain information needed to make pharmaceutical care assessments
- Effectively communicate in both verbal and written modalities to patients and other health care professionals
- Develop educational tools designed to optimize patient understanding and medication use
- Enhance communication skills through continuing education program presentations

In addition, the resident will complete the following:

- Research/Quality Improvement Project
 - Background preparation, protocol design, data collection, and analysis of data
 - Written manuscript suitable for submission to a professional journal
 - Presentation at the New England Residency Conference and Midyear Clinical Meeting
- Drug monograph/drug information project(s)
- Pharmacy in-service presentations and continuing education lectures
- At least one lecture in therapeutics at URI

PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Required Rotations:

Traditional: NMS Code # 146113

- Orientation/Training (1 week)
- Inpatient Pharmacy/Outpatient Pharmacy Operations (4 weeks)
- Administration (2 weeks)
- Anticoagulation (3 weeks)
- Ambulatory Care (PACT) I (7 weeks)
- Ambulatory Care (PACT) II (7 weeks)
- Internal Medicine (6 weeks)
- Drug Information (4 weeks)
- Physician Elective Block (4 weeks)
- 2 out of the following 3 options (6 weeks)
 - Advanced Cardiology
 - Antimicrobial Stewardship
 - Psychiatry (inpatient/outpatient)

Mental Health: NMS Code # 146121

- Orientation/Training (1 week)
- Inpatient Pharmacy/Outpatient Pharmacy Operations (4 weeks)
- Administration (2 weeks)
- Anticoagulation (3 weeks)
- Ambulatory Care (PACT) I (7 weeks)
- Psychiatry I (6 weeks)
- Psychiatry II (7 weeks)
- Internal Medicine (6 weeks)
- Drug Information (4 weeks)
- Physician Elective Block (4 weeks)
- 1 out of the following 2 options (6 weeks)
 - Advanced Cardiology
 - Antimicrobial Stewardship

Longitudinal Responsibilities

- Ambulatory care patient panel
- HBPC chart reviews
- Medication Use Evaluation/Quality Improvement Project
- Administrative projects
- Quarterly pharmacy newsletter
- Teaching certificate program

Teaching Opportunities

Providing the pharmacy resident with opportunities to teach is a primary objective of the VA residency programs. The pharmacy service provides clinical and institutional clerkships for Pharm.D. students from the URI and the MCPHS – Boston and Worcester campuses. Additionally, residents contribute to the ASHP teaching mission with lectures to Pharm.D. students as well as presentations to the VAPHS pharmacy, medical, and nursing staff. The residency program participates in a formal teaching certificate program through URI.

Service Commitment

All PGY-1 residents have a service commitment designed to ensure that they gain experience and can function as a pharmacy generalist. To achieve this objective, residents are scheduled approximately 8 to 16 hours per month (one to two weekend days per month) in a VAPHS inpatient pharmacy setting and are expected to perform as a patient care pharmacist or as an operations pharmacist under the guidance of a supervising pharmacist.

PGY-2 Early Commitment Option

For PGY-1 residents at VAPHS who want to complete a second year of residency training, early acceptance into either the PGY-2 Ambulatory Care or Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency may be considered during the late fall as an option. Those residents accepted for early commitment to the PGY-2 program will NOT participate in the ASHP Match program.

Overview of the PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program

PGY-2 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and PGY-1 pharmacy residency programs to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists in specialized areas of practice. PGY-2 residencies provide residents with opportunities to function independently as practitioners by integrating accumulated experiences and knowledge into advanced practice settings. Residents who successfully complete an accredited PGY-2 pharmacy residency are prepared for advanced patient care, academia, or other specialized positions, along with board certification, if available.

Rotations are made up of 6 to 8-week blocks in varying ambulatory care settings, rotating with different preceptors on a day to day basis, with one 6-week block conducted in a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in New Bedford, MA.

The potential settings include:

- Pharmacist Directed:**
- Primary Care/Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT)
 - Anticoagulation
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Heart Failure
 - Psychiatry
 - Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)
 - Non Formulary Drug Requests (NFDR)
 - Population Management
 - Weight Management
 - Academic Detailing
 - Women's Health

Ongoing activities include working on special projects for the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, participating in research projects, precepting PGY-1 Pharmacy residents and pharmacy APPE students, and other teaching and lecturing activities.

Objectives of the PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program:

The objective of the specialty residency program is to provide the PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Resident with opportunities to complete the following:

- Improve skills necessary to function independently as a clinical pharmacy specialist in a primary/ambulatory care setting
- Identify, resolve, and prevent drug related problems through the use of patient interview, physical assessment, patient observation, and medical profile review
- Evaluate a patient's medical record and medication profile, and obtain information needed to make primary care assessments
- Improve continuity of care by promoting interdisciplinary communication and cooperation for the optimal care of patients

In addition, the resident will complete the following:

- Quality Improvement Project
 - Background preparation, protocol design, data collection, and analysis of data
 - Written manuscript suitable for submission to a professional journal
 - Presentation at the New England Residency Conference
- Medication Use Evaluation
 - Written abstract with poster presentation at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
- An administrative project
- Pharmacy in-service presentations
- Contributions to the quarterly pharmacy newsletter

Longitudinal Responsibilities:

- Ambulatory care patient panel
- HBPC chart reviews/care planning
- Anticoagulation
- Quality improvement/administrative projects
- Population Management
- Quarterly pharmacy newsletter

Teaching Opportunities

Providing the pharmacy resident with opportunities to teach is a primary objective of the VA residency programs. The pharmacy service provides clinical and institutional clerkships for Pharm.D. students from the URI and the MCPHS – Boston and Worcester campuses. Additionally, residents contribute to the ASHP teaching mission with lectures to Pharm.D. students as well as presentations to the VAPHS pharmacy, medical, and nursing staff.

Overview of the PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program

PGY-2 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and PGY-1 pharmacy residency programs to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists in specialized areas of practice. PGY-2 residencies provide residents with opportunities to function independently as practitioners by integrating accumulated experience and knowledge with advanced practice settings. Residents who successfully complete an accredited PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency are prepared for advanced patient care in the areas of mental health and/or substance use disorders, academia, or other specialized positions, along with board certification, if available.

This program is also listed on the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP) residency directory website [Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Programs | aapp.org](https://www.aapp.org/psychiatric-pharmacy-residency-programs)

The potential settings include:

Pharmacist Directed: • Outpatient/Inpatient Psychiatry • Mental Health Pharmacy Consult • Neurology/Pain • Academia • Outpatient Addiction Recovery Services (CARS) • Geriatrics • Clozapine Clinic • Elective

Psychiatrist/Neurologist Directed: • Neurology (general, multiple sclerosis, movement disorders) • Outpatient Addiction Recovery Services • Primary Care Mental Health

Interprofessional Teams: • Inpatient Psychiatry • Clozapine Clinic • Suboxone Clinic • Methadone Clinic • ALS/Spinal Cord Injury • Traumatic Brain Injury

Other ongoing activities include: • Answering drug information questions • Completing mental health pharmacy e-consults • Completing a medication use evaluation • Assisting in an advanced neuropsychiatry elective course at the URI • Co-precepting URI pharmacy APPE students on their psychiatry rotation at the Providence VA Medical Center • Providing in-services and teaching to healthcare professionals and Veterans

Research/Quality Improvement Project: • Background preparation, protocol design, data collection, and analysis of data • Written manuscript suitable for submission to a professional journal • Poster presentation at the AAPP meeting

Inter-residency Education: Partnering with residents and preceptors at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, VA Boston Healthcare System, and Yale/New Haven Hospital for weekly educational topic discussions, journal clubs, and case presentations across a variety of disease states and psychiatric pharmacy issues. These discussions provide excellent preparation for the BCPP examination.

Objectives of the PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program:

The objectives of the specialty residency program are to provide the PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Resident with an opportunity to complete the following:

- Develop the skills necessary to function independently as a clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry
- Treat patients with complex psychiatric and neuropsychiatric disease states as well as primary medical comorbidities
- Identify, resolve, and prevent medication related problems through the use of patient interview, physical assessment, patient observation and medical profile review
- Secure the agreements necessary to establish a collaborative interdisciplinary psychiatric pharmacy practice

Residency Program Benefits

Approximate Resident Stipend: PGY-1: \$54,911 PGY-2: \$58,715

Vacation: Vacation time will accrue at a rate of four (4) hours per pay period (26 pay periods/year) for a total of thirteen (13) paid vacation days

Holidays: Eleven (11) paid federal holidays

Required Conference Attendance:

- Residents will attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
- PGY-1 residents and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care resident will attend the New England Residency Conference
- PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Resident will attend the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP; formerly CPNP) Annual Conference

Sick Leave: Sick time will accrue at the rate of 4 hours per pay period for a maximum of 13 sick days

Health Insurance: Available on a group rate basis

Parking: Free

Additional Benefits

Job openings within the VA after graduation are plentiful across the country, many of which are at the clinical pharmacy specialist or supervisory levels.

Qualifications

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy or a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy with equivalent experience for the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency
- Have completed a PGY-1 residency or have equivalent experience for the PGY-2 residencies in ambulatory care pharmacy and psychiatric pharmacy
- Have/obtain a current license to practice as a registered pharmacist in any state (i.e. you do not have to be licensed in Rhode Island to practice at the VAPHS)

Application Requirements – All documents should be submitted to PHORCAS by January 3rd, 2025

- Residency application form
- Letter of intent describing goals/reasons for pursuing advanced residency training in pharmacy, ambulatory care pharmacy, or psychiatric pharmacy
- Official college of pharmacy transcript
- Three letters of recommendation
- Curriculum vitae

NOTE: Applicants for the **PGY-1 and PGY-2 residencies** **MUST** participate in the ASHP Match Program

Inquiries & Contact Information

Inquiries or questions regarding the PGY-1 Pharmacy residency program can be made to the residency program director:

Stephanie Preite, Pharm.D., BCACP
Providence VAMC, Pharmacy Service (119)
830 Chalkstone Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Stephanie.Preite@va.gov

Inquiries or questions regarding the PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy residency program can be made to the residency program director:

Carlos Freitas, Pharm.D., BCACP
Providence VAMC, Pharmacy Service (119)
830 Chalkstone Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Carlos.Freitas@va.gov

Inquiries or questions regarding the PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy residency program can be made to the residency program director:

Cristofer Price, Pharm.D., BCPP
Providence VAMC, Pharmacy Service (119)
830 Chalkstone Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Cristofer.Price@va.gov