

## PGY2 Pharmacy Residency: Ambulatory Care

Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System  
Program Director: Trang Nguyen, Pharm.D., BCACP



The ASHP- accredited PGY2 specialty residency in Ambulatory Care builds on Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and PGY1 pharmacy residency programs to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists in specialized areas of practice. PGY2 residencies provide residents with opportunities to function independently as practitioners by conceptualizing and integrating accumulated experience and knowledge and incorporating both into delivering patient care or other advanced practice settings. Residents who successfully complete an accredited PGY2 pharmacy residency are prepared for advanced patient care, academic or other specialized positions, along with board certification, if available.

### General Description

The 12-month program is designed to lead the resident through a variety of longitudinal practice experiences. By the end of the program, the resident should feel competent practicing within a variety of outpatient settings involving Ambulatory Care pharmacotherapy. The residency includes core rotations that are chosen to establish a strong base in Ambulatory Care. Core Ambulatory Care disease states within this residency include diabetes mellitus, hypertension, coronary artery disease, heart failure, and hyperlipidemia. The resident may choose electives based on his/her career goals. Although the residency is designed around these core and elective longitudinal rotations, the focus of the training will be to master each of the disease states established within the ASHP Practice Standards for a Specialized Residency in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice.

### Program Goals

#### Clinical

- Establish yourself as an integral member of a health care team
- Promote expertise in managing medication therapies in Ambulatory Care pharmacotherapy
- Develop solid patient care skills in the ambulatory chronic care settings
- Develop a sound understanding of pharmacy practice management
- Augment understanding of practice management in the institutional, regional, and national levels

#### Academic

- Interpret and disseminate knowledge in Ambulatory Care Pharmacotherapy
- Foster innovative and rewarding precepting strategies
- Provide teaching experiences in small group learning environments
- Generate new knowledge in Ambulatory Care Pharmacotherapy

## Professional

- Cultivate techniques for self-assessment, goal setting, and career planning
- Demonstrate exemplary verbal and written communication skills
- Establish a personalized system for balancing multiple work/life responsibilities
- Recognize the importance of professional development through participation in pharmacy organization activities

*For additional information, please refer to the **ASHP PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Educational Goals and Objectives.***

## Program Activities

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The residency experiences are divided into half-day blocks (total of 10 half-days per week). All rotations are offered as longitudinal experiences with each rotation offered in quarterly blocks or as noted below. The resident is required to take all of the Required Rotations in each of the quarters. However, the Elective Rotations only run for the specific quarter(s) the resident is assigned (but these may be repeated in subsequent quarters if more experience in that specific area is desired). All longitudinal experiences are completed at the Dallas/Fort Worth VA Medical Center (VAMC) unless otherwise noted below. Required and Elective Rotations may change based on preceptor availability and program needs.

### **Required Rotations (50-70% of time the entire year unless otherwise stated)**

- Pharmacotherapy Clinics - Dallas and Fort Worth (2 to 3 - ½ days a week, 12 months)
- Management/Clinical Enhancement (1/2 day per week, 12 months)
- UT Southwestern – Family Medicine (1/2 day per week, 3 months)
- Heart Failure clinic (1/2 day per week, 6 months)
- Academic: research project development/administrative time (1 to 2 ½ days a week, 12 months)
- Clinical Staffing (12 months) – residents will rotate covering weekend staffing shifts

### **Elective Rotations**

- Anticoagulation Clinic (pharmacist precepted)
- Diabetes Clinic: Adult (multidisciplinary clinic, physician precepted)
- Endocrinology (multidisciplinary, physician precepted)
- Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Clinic (multidisciplinary clinic, pharmacist precepted)
- Home-Based Primary Care (pharmacist precepted)
- Lipid Clinic (multidisciplinary, physician precepted)
- Mental Health Clinic (pharmacist precepted)
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (physician precepted)
- PrEP/OPAT (pharmacist precepted)
- Renal Clinic (multidisciplinary clinic, physician precepted)

### **Residency Project**

Residents will complete one research project per year. Residents will also complete additional projects as needed by the facility. Residents may be asked to present their project(s) at a local, regional, or national event. Residents may choose any type of research project, provided that the project includes generation of original data, is suitable for publication or presentation at a national pharmacy meeting, and can reasonably be completed within the residency year.

## Teaching Activities

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Teaching activities for residents are designed to complement practice activities while allowing the resident to experience a variety of teaching methods. Residents will be required to demonstrate skills necessary to function in an academic setting by completing the following activities:

### **Teaching Certificate Program (required if not already completed during PGY1)**

The Clinician Educator Training Program is a program to provide training for PGY1 and PGY2 residents who are interested in developing their academic skills. The major goal of the training program is to supplement a strong clinical background with the skills needed to become a successful educator. The learning objectives for this program are to develop a personalized teaching philosophy, create evaluable learning objectives and corresponding exam questions for a formal lecture, evaluate students fairly, and to discuss effective teaching methodologies for a given scenario. The program includes didactic and web-based teaching models, mentored facilitator training for small group problem-based learning, and precepting of third and/or fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy students. Residents also receive instruction in statistical and clinical trial design; submit a project proposal to the institutional review board; and collect, interpret, and publish their results. Additional activities are provided to enhance discovery, integration, and writing skills. The program also includes innovative discussion topics based on needs previously identified by new faculty members. While the program targets residents with an interest in academia, the skill sets gained through Teaching Certificate Program are applicable to a broad range of career opportunities.

### **VA Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program**

The VA Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program is a program to provide training for PGY1 and PGY2 residents who are interested in developing their academic skills. The program consists of four live sessions and five asynchronous sessions. Topics to be covered during the program include Teaching Philosophy, Presentation Development, Development and Implementation of an Effective Rotation, Preceptor Development, Education Experiences (Experiential Education, Didactic, Clinical Teaching), and Reflection. The deliverables required for this program are to develop a personalized teaching philosophy, develop sample LED and rotation calendar, complete assessment of lower level trainee, and give formal presentations. Residents will maintain a teaching portfolio complete with the following: teaching philosophy (initial/final), presentation/session handouts or slides, evaluations and feedback for teaching sessions, evidence of feedback to learns, sample LED, sample rotation calendar.

### **Didactic Teaching**

One to two hours of formal didactic lectures within the school of pharmacy programs may be required. The courses that are to be taught will be based on availability and resident interest.

### **Team-Based Learning/ Laboratory Based Learning**

Based on resident preference, residents may facilitate one semester equivalent of either a laboratory-based course (Immunizations or Patient Assessment Lab) in the P1 year or Clinical Correlations, a team-based learning course in the P2 or P3 year. Clinical Correlations series consist of interactive activities, including but not limited to case-based exercises. Students will utilize team-based learning to complete activities each session. It is designed to be a team-based learning experience and the facilitator's role is not to teach the students, but rather to facilitate their discussion.

### **Experiential Teaching**

Clerkship teaching (involving both P3 and/or P4 Pharm.D. students) is integrated into the resident practice model. Early in the program, the resident will observe faculty clerkship preceptors and become integrated into various aspects of clerkship teaching. During the residency program, residents will independently precept clerkship students for two rotations.

### **Other Teaching/Educational Opportunities**

Residents will be required to provide in-services and/or topic discussions for pharmacy, nursing and medical services as required by preceptors. Residency topic discussions will be held on individual rotations as required and/or requested.

## **Additional Activities**

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### **Resident Rounds Seminar Series**

Residents will present a formal 45-minute presentation with 15 minutes for question and answer to VANTHCS pharmacy staff in the fall. Residents must choose topics that are of sufficient controversy or debate that are candidates for further publication in the medical literature. These presentations are accredited for 1 hour of CE credit for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

### **PGY2 Ambulatory Care Topic Discussions**

Residents will participate in the resident driven topic discussions which can include literature review, case application, clinical pearls, etc. Residents will complete at least 2 journal clubs throughout the year which will be assessed in PharmAcademic.

### **Manuscript Preparation**

Residents are required to submit one manuscript per year for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

### **Southwestern Leadership Conference (ALCALDE)**

Residents participate in this regional residency meeting, also known as ALCALDE, in the spring. Residents have the opportunity to present their project results for evaluation in a podium presentation. It is also a great opportunity to interact with residents from other programs throughout the region.

### **Poster Presentation**

Residents are required to present a poster of their research project at a national (preferred) or state professional meeting. In addition, a presentation towards the end of the residency year at our local facility may also be required.

### **Resident Interviews**

Residents may be asked to participate in the interview process for the PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency program.

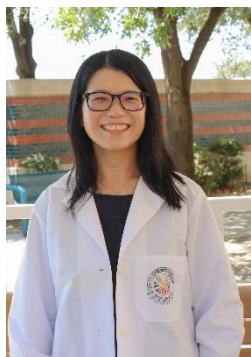
## Program Leadership

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**Trang Nguyen, PharmD, BCACP**  
Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner  
RPD PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency  
Practice Site: VA North Texas Health Care System

Dr. Nguyen is an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner at the VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS). Dr. Nguyen graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Oklahoma in June of 2016. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System and her PGY2 in Ambulatory Care at the VANTHCS and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Her practice interests within ambulatory care include diabetes, anticoagulation, and dyslipidemia. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking, travel, and trying new food.



**Elaine Lo, PharmD, BCPS**  
Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner  
PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Coordinator  
Practice Site: VA North Texas Health Care System

Dr. Lo is an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner at the VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS). Dr. Lo graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in May of 2015. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 in Ambulatory Care at the VANTHCS and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing board games, watching Chinese dramas, and singing karaoke.

## Information for Applicants

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**Qualifications:** Residency applicants must have a Pharm.D. degree from an ACPE-Accredited program, and be eligible for licensure in Texas, and be eligible for preceptorship. Candidates for the Ambulatory Care Specialty Residency should have completed an ASHP Accredited PGY1 Residency and are eligible for employment with the Veteran's Administration.

Interested applicants should submit all application materials by **Sunday, January 1, 2024, at 11:59pm CST.**

For more information, please utilize the resources and contact information below:

**Website**

[VA North Texas Health Care System Pharmacy Residency Programs Website](#)

**Contact Information**

[NTXPharmacyResidencyPrograms@va.gov](mailto:NTXPharmacyResidencyPrograms@va.gov)