

PGY-2 Population Health Management & Data Analytics Residency

Program Description

The Heart of Texas Healthcare Network (VISN 17) employs a team of pharmacy leaders who provide a dynamic and challenging environment with the goal of assuring that over 500,000 Texas Veterans receive the best care anywhere. VISN 17 created this program in response to increased demand for clinical pharmacists who have skills related to Data Analysis, Population Health Management, Pharmacoeconomics/Formulary Management, and Organizational and Change Management.

Residents will learn how to leverage clinical and data analytic skills to improve the quality and outcomes of patient care services. Residents will work across seven VA healthcare systems while learning the importance of building strong, effective teams of pharmacists and prescribers. Residents will also support evidence-based prescribing through educational initiatives, formulary, and policy projects. Residents will have the opportunity to participate in several regional and national workgroups to apply principles of population management to Veteran care.

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 17 Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) PGY2 Population Health Management and Data Analytics Residency Program is to develop clinically proficient healthcare data analysts and pharmacoeconomists who will improve the quality and outcomes of patient care services. This residency program integrates population health and data analytics with the practices of evidence-based medicine and formulary management to support process improvements within the healthcare system.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VISN 17 Pharmacy Benefit Manager

Residency Contacts

Cassandra Carwise, PharmD

VISN 17 PBM Formulary Program Manager
PGY-2 Residency Program Director
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Phone: 254-295-3612

Cindy Wu, PharmD

VISN 17 Pharmacoeconomics and Informatics
Program Manager
PGY-2 Residency Program Coordinator
Email: Cindy.Wu2@va.gov
Phone: 254-709-6895

VISN 17 Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM)
Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System
1901 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Temple, TX 76504

Program website:

<https://pharmacy.utexas.edu/programs/residencies/pgy2/va-heart-texas-outcomes>

Program Overview

The core learning experiences are longitudinal in structure except for orientation and are scheduled throughout the residency year from July to May to allow for learning in various areas. The resident will have an opportunity for a 4 week block elective experience in June. Elective experiences are specifically intended to align with the resident's needs, goals, and interests.

Core Rotations – Longitudinal

- Orientation (2 weeks)
- Clinical Data Management and Analytics
- Pharmacoeconomics and Formulary Management
- Population Health Management
- Pharmacy Leadership
- Quality Improvement or Research Project

Elective Rotations – 4 weeks

- Advanced Skills with Technology or Automation Systems
- Advanced Pharmacoeconomics and Formulary Management

Clinical Data Management and Analytics

The resident will learn and apply a variety of data skills from database creation/extraction to final product development such as creation and maintenance of electronic dashboards and reports. Knowledge and applied use of query languages will be taught and developed for interacting with relational databases. The resident upon graduation from the program will have an overall understanding of the VA health data repository enterprise architecture data warehouse structure applied to VISN 17. This will include specialized knowledge of cube design and development, database management, use of collaborative development environments, digital dashboard development and maintenance, and formulating, executing, and revising plans and coding procedures for database searches using SQL. In addition, the resident will be taught data analysis and report design with programs such as Power BI.

Pharmacoeconomics and Formulary Management

The resident will develop skills, values, and abilities in the practical application of pharmacoeconomic principles to the VA healthcare environment and in research design and methodologies to assess pharmaceutical-related economic, clinical, and humanistic health outcomes. Additionally, core concepts of pharmacoeconomics such as Lost Opportunity Cost, cost variables, Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA), and Budget Impact Analysis (BIA) will be explored. The resident will also learn about and understand the principles of procurement – the theory behind choosing the most cost-effective product, handling shortages, and practical procurement exercises. The resident will gain exposure and contribute to the VHA formulary management process through review and completion of prior authorization drug requests (PADRs) utilizing clinical knowledge, National and VISN treatment guidelines, drug use criteria, and relevant literature and resources.



**VA Heart of Texas
Health Care Network**

Keeping Veterans at the HEART of it all

FOLLOWING EVIDENCE. IMPROVING OUTCOMES.

Population Health Management

This experience is intended to expose the resident to the components of population health and assess the impact it has on health outcomes. This rotation will engage the resident in providing patient care through development and use of analysis tools to identify/target patients to assist healthcare systems in VISN 17 in meeting performance metrics, measures, or fulfilling another patient care need. The resident will work with available national and VISN dashboards or other analysis tools to improve patient safety, quality, and other outcomes. The resident will provide population health management through utilization of data analysis tools created by the resident to obtain an end-user perspective and will educate other end-users about the tool.

Pharmacy Leadership

This rotation will help residents become familiar with the key principles utilized in health care systems for leadership and overall practice improvement. This experience is designed to expose the resident to leadership nomenclature, key principles, tools, and available resources that will assist them in growing as clinicians, practitioners, and leaders. The resident will participate in a number of activities designed to improve their working knowledge and experience with leadership concepts. The overarching goal of this experience is to enable the resident to apply the knowledge gained to any pharmacy practice setting to improve their individual practice and confidently utilize leadership skills. The resident will have an opportunity to learn about the constructs, regulations, and systems necessary to run the Pharmacy Service at Central Texas VA Health Care System and will be afforded a firsthand opportunity to observe and participate in and troubleshoot the day-to-day conduct and challenges of the Pharmacy services.

Quality Improvement or Research Project

This learning experience is designed to develop, execute, and report results of investigations of pharmacy practice-related issues. The resident will be responsible for obtaining experience in all areas of a research or quality improvement project including development of a hypothesis, submission of a project proposal, application to Institutional Review Board (IRB) (for research approval or classification as a QI), data collection, data analysis, drawing conclusions, and presentation of results. The resident will work with the RPD and the research preceptor(s) throughout the project life cycle as well as the Research Pharmacist from the CTVHCS who will assist in coordinating project deadlines and IRB approval. Residents will be encouraged to conduct outcomes-based research or quality improvement projects, preferably incorporating the skills learned from other rotations and building a new analysis tool that will assist in the data mining component of the project. In addition to the manuscript, residents are required to present a project poster at a National professional pharmacy meeting and a PowerPoint presentation at the VISN 17 Quarterly P&T Committee meeting.

Longitudinal Activities:

- Data and Pharmacoeconomic activities
- Participation in committees (e.g. Pharmacy & Therapeutics and clinical workgroups)
- Precepting PGY1 Residents
- Prior Authorization Drug Reviews
- Quality Improvement Research Project
- Teaching Certificate – University of Texas at Austin (optional)

...to develop clinically proficient healthcare **data analysts** and **pharmacoeconomists** who will improve the quality and outcomes of patient care services...

Application

Deadline: January 15th

National Match ID# 691481

TWO PGY2 Positions Available

Qualifications

- United States citizenship
- Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE-accredited school of pharmacy
- Valid US pharmacist license
- ASHP accredited PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency
- Immunized following current CDC guidelines for healthcare workers

Requirements

- Letter of Intent
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) professional letters of references
- OF306 – Declaration for Federal Employment
- Application for Health Professions Trainees-VA Form 10-2850d
- Official College of Pharmacy Transcripts(s)

Application forms OF306 and 10-2850D can be found at: [Resources for Health Professions Trainees Coming to VA | Eligibility and Forms - Office of Academic Affiliations](#)

All application materials and supplemental materials should be submitted via the PhORCAS system: [PhORCAS - ASHP](#)

Candidates will be ranked according to the National Match Program. This residency site agrees that no person at this site will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any residency applicant. Information about registering for the Match can be found at: [ASHP Match \(natmatch.com\)](#)



Waco, TX

Program Details and Benefits

- ❖ Length of Residency: 52 weeks
- ❖ Start Date: July 1st
- ❖ Location: Temple, TX

- Competitive stipend
- 13 days of Annual Leave
- 13 days of Sick Leave
- 11 paid Federal Holidays
- Eligible for medical and life insurance as a VA employee
- Tuition & travel to AMCP and/or other National or Regional Pharmacy conferences

Current Positions Held by Past Residents

- Pharmacoeconomics Program Manager
- Pharmaceutical Integrated Technologies Program Manager
- Biologics and Specialty Pharmaceuticals Program Manager
- Formulary Program Manager
- VISN 17 Clinical Informatics Program Manager
- VISN 17 Management Analyst Health Informatics
- VISN 17 Pharmacy Executive National PBM Pharmacist
- DoD/DHA Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Culturally and socially responsive practice is integral to the mission of our residency program at the VISN 17 Pharmacy Benefits Management. We recognize the importance of acknowledging and supporting individual differences in our residents, and within relationships between our residents, staff, and patients. We work to identify, respect, and nurture the unique personal attributes that an individual brings to each relationship, and believe that fostering a culturally rich and diverse training environment is foundational to a strong residency program, and to nurturing pharmacists capable of providing culturally sensitive, socially responsive, and patient-centered care. To that end, we promote an awareness of, and sensitivity to, individual and cultural diversity identities across multiple settings during the residency through discussions during supervision, practice, seminars, and workshops. We are committed to a fully inclusive environment that promotes openness, equal access, respect, civil and safe relationships, and fairness.



Austin, TX

Meet the Preceptors



Cassandra Carwise, PharmD

Position: Formulary Program Manager, Residency Program Director
Rotation(s): Pharmacoeconomics and Formulary Management
Pharmacy School: Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
PGY1 Residency: Tampa General Healthcare/Florida A&M University



Andrew Himself, PharmD, MBA

Position: VISN Pharmacy Executive
Rotation(s): Pharmacy Leadership
Pharmacy School: Texas A&M Health Science Center
PGY1 Residency: Memorial Hermann Hospital System
PGY2 Residency: VISN 17 PBM Population Health Management and Data Analytics Residency



Jennifer T. Gunter, PharmD

Position: PBM Deputy Pharmacy Executive, Academic Detailing Program Director
Rotation(s): Quality Improvement or Research Project
Pharmacy School: University of Louisiana at Monroe
PGY1 Residency: VA North Texas Health Care System and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy – Pharmacy Practice Residency



Martein D. Lewis, PharmD, BCPP, MSHI

Position: Academic Detailing Program Director, Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner - Mental Health
Rotation(s): Population Health Management
Pharmacy School: University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio, TX)
PGY1 Residency: Ambulatory Care at the Phoenix VAMC
PGY2 Residency: Psychiatry at the Eastern Colorado VAMC



April Casselman, PharmD

Position: Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator
Rotation(s): Population Health Management
Pharmacy School: The University of Texas College of Pharmacy
PGY1 Residency: Drug Information Specialty Residency - Scott & White Hospital, Health Plan and Clinics



Veronica Fassio, PharmD

Position: Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner – Pharmacogenomics/ Medication Safety
Rotation(s): Population Health Management
Pharmacy School: The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy
PGY1 Residency: VA Central Texas Healthcare System Residency
PGY2 Residency: Medication Use Safety and Policy Residency with the National PBM/VA MedSAFE

Meet the Preceptors



David A. Jacob, PharmD

Position: Clinical Informatics Program Manager

Rotation(s): Clinical Data Management and Analytics

Pharmacy School: Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

PGY1 Residency: Dayton VA Medical Center

PGY2 Residency: VISN 17 PBM Population Health Management and Data Analytics Residency



Dawn H. Lopez, PharmD, CDCES

Position: Academic Detailing Program Manager

Rotation(s): Population Health Management

Pharmacy School: Xavier University College of Pharmacy New Orleans, LA

PGY1 Residency: Baylor All Saints Medical Center Fort Worth, TX

PGY2 Residency: Parkland Health and Hospital System Dallas, TX (Primary Care Specialty)



Ashley Oliver, PharmD, BCPS

Position: Academic Detailing Program Manager

Rotation(s): Population Health Management

Pharmacy School: Texas Southern University

PGY1 Residency: Phoenix VA – Acute Care Focus

PGY2 Residency: South Texas Internal Medicine Program



Lindsey K. Vierus, PharmD

Position: Academic Detailing Program Manager

Rotation(s): Clinical Data Management and Analytics

Pharmacy School: University of Houston



Cindy A. Wu, PharmD

Position: Pharmacoeconomics and Informatics Program Manager

Rotation(s): Pharmacoeconomics and Formulary Management

Pharmacy School: St. John's University

PGY1 Residency: Fidelis Care New York Managed Care Residency

PGY2 Residency: VISN 17 PBM Population Health Management and Data Analytics Residency

Current Resident



Kylee Clay, PharmD

Position: PGY2 Population Health Management and Data Analytics Resident

Pharmacy School: Auburn University

PGY1 Residency: VA Central Alabama Healthcare System

Specialty/Interests: Ambulatory Care, Data Analytics, Pharmacoeconomics

Hobbies: Baking, Crafting, Reading, Traveling, and spending time with friends, family, and her dog, Oakley

What do you love about VISN 17 PBM: I love seeing the collaborative nature of the team and the passion for striving to provide the best care in the nation to our Veterans. I enjoy being involved in projects that contribute towards that goal and can make a positive impact at various levels of the health care system, including the individual patient level.

Recruiting Events 2024-2025

Federal Pharmacy Virtual Residency Showcase

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 1-3pm CST

PBM PGY2 Population Health Management and Data Analytics Residency Virtual Residency Showcases

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 1-3pm CST

Tuesday, January 7, 2024 at 1-3pm CST

ACCP/SnAPhA Virtual Residency Showcase

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7-8pm CST

ASHP Midyear 2024 Residency Showcase

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 8-11am CST

Booth #5413