

VA Northern California Health Care System

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Information



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

2022 Residency Showcase Information

CSHP Seminar – Anaheim, CA

- In-person meeting at booth R264
 - Saturday, November 12 from 1-5:30 PM PST
 - Sunday, November 13 from 8 AM-12:30 PM PST

Virtual Open House

- WebEx event
 - Wednesday, November 16 from 9-10:30 AM PST
 - Questions: Alayan.Hguyen@va.gov

ASHP Midyear – Las Vegas, NV

- Tuesday, December 6 from 8-11 AM PST
 - Booth #5506



VA Northern California Health Care System

The VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) is an integrated health care delivery system, offering a comprehensive array of medical, surgical, rehabilitative, mental health and extended care to veterans across Northern California. The health system is comprised of a 66-bed medical center in Sacramento, a rehabilitation and long-term care facility in Martinez, and numerous outpatient clinics which serve over 251,000 veterans across 17 counties.

As part of the VISN 21 VA Sierra Pacific Network, VANCHCS provides veterans access to an extensive range of health and specialty services. VISN 21 is one of eighteen regions in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and serves veterans in Northern and Central California, Nevada, Hawaii, the Philippines and U.S. Territories in the Pacific Basin.

VANCHCS Mission

Our mission is to provide comprehensive health care services to Veteran patients in a compassionate, high quality, and cost effective manner. We are committed to achieving customer satisfaction by meeting or exceeding the needs of our patients and staff.

VANCHCS Pharmacy Service

The pharmacy service has nearly 100 pharmacists, 4 PGY1 pharmacy residents and 1 PGY2 psychiatric pharmacy resident. The Pharmacy Service has formal affiliations with several schools of pharmacy for advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs). Computerized provider order entry is utilized in all settings and bar code recognition technology is in place for verification and documentation of medication administration. The Pharmacy Service has implemented automated technology for many of its dispensing activities. The Inpatient Pharmacy provides 24-hour, hospital-wide unit dose and intravenous admixture services. Pharmacists are assigned to clinical duties in acute care, extended care, primary care and several other specialty care areas including mental health, infectious diseases, cardiology, neurology and anticoagulation. Clinical services include medication reconciliation, patient monitoring, medication management, discharge counseling, drug information, patient education, pharmacokinetics, drug usage evaluations and adverse drug event reporting.

VANCHCS Pharmacy Service Philosophy and Mission Statement

The Pharmacy Service commits to provide high quality primary and acute patient care services, education and research through pharmacist, technician, trainee and administrative personnel expertise and skills.

Shared responsibility for patient care outcomes results in interdisciplinary teams including pharmacists that provide inpatient and outpatient pharmaceutical care. Pharmaceutical care involves the identification, resolution, and prevention of drug-related problems affecting patient care outcomes, and encompasses the total spectrum of patient care, education and research.

The Pharmacy Service offers an effective drug use control system to support pharmaceutical care by pharmacists in clinically oriented activities of patient compliance, telephone medicine advice and pharmacoconomics. Attuned to changing trends in healthcare, the Pharmacy Service adapts pharmaceutical care to the need of the veteran patient population by observing and surpassing the most up-to-date standards of practice by fostering staff growth by developing patient education, clinical pharmacology, research and academic skills.

Pharmacy Residency Programs

Program	Residents	Established	Accreditation
PGY1 Pharmacy	4	1980	ASHP
PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy	1	2015	ASHP



Karsten Duncan, Pharm.D.
Chief, Pharmacy Service



Mary Cradick, Pharm.D., BCACP
PGY1 Residency Program Director
Mary.Cradick@va.gov
561-774-4107



**Kristina Ward, Pharm.D., BCPS,
BCPP**
PGY2 Psychiatry Residency Program
Director
Kristina.Ward@va.gov
925-370-4014

PGY1 General Residency Information

Pay and Benefits

- PGY1 Period of Appointment: 12 months, from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- *Estimated* PGY1 Stipend: \$50,141
- Benefits
 - 13 days of Annual Leave (“vacation”) and 13 days of Sick Leave
 - Sick Leave is earned at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks and can be used for illness and injury as well as medical, dental, optical and other medically-related appointments or procedures
 - 11 paid federal holidays
 - Administrative leave and financial support (if available) to attend selected professional meetings
 - Health, life, vision/dental insurance options

Pharmacist Licensure

All pharmacy residents are expected to possess full, current and unrestricted licensure to practice pharmacy in a State, Territory, or Commonwealth of the United States, or the District of Columbia by October 1 (90 days) following the commencement of the residency program. At the start of the residency year, the RPD will meet with each resident to determine his or her licensure status and timeline for completion. A copy of all pharmacist licenses will be obtained and kept on file by the Pharmacy Service. Residents needing to re-take board exams should work with state and national boards of pharmacy to ensure a re-take date as soon as possible. If the resident is unsuccessful in obtaining licensure by October 1st, input will be sought by the Residency Advisory Committee regarding disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include extension of the residency year or dismissal from the program.

Program Purpose

The purpose of the VA Northern California PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program is to build on the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and outcomes to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions and to prepare graduate pharmacists for the practice of pharmacy as exemplified by the concepts of pharmaceutical care. The pharmacist completing the residency training program will independently and confidently manage patient disease states and drug therapy focused on achieving appropriate patient outcomes. The pharmacist will be a proficient member of the healthcare team, proactively manage practice issues, possess marketable practice skills, and exhibit effective communication skills. The pharmacist will commit to continuous lifelong learning and the advancement of the pharmacy profession. Upon completion of the PGY1 program, the resident will be eligible for board certification and a postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training program.

PGY1 Program Overview

Program Description

We aim to develop in residents the ability to provide pharmaceutical care across a variety of practice settings (e.g. ambulatory care, acute care, pharmacy benefit management and pharmacy operations). We offer residents opportunities to rotate in a number of these settings, including our expansive ambulatory care clinics. Residents complete the same required (“core”) learning experiences, and electives are customized based on resident interest (outlined on page 7).

While offering a well-rounded PGY1 experience, the VA Northern California specifically offers very strong experiences in ambulatory care. Graduates of our program are well prepared for PGY2 training and advanced clinical roles.

In addition to the clinical reasoning skills residents will gain, we also further develop residents professionally. Professional development takes place throughout the year and includes topic discussions, readings and seminars. These activities will prepare the resident as they embark on a path toward professional excellence.

For a PGY1 resident interested in pursuing additional training in mental health, the resident may early commit to the PGY2 psychiatric pharmacy residency program if general qualifications and selection criteria are met.



Program Location

Our program offers four PGY1 pharmacy residency positions. All four PGY1 residents will be based out of the Sacramento VA Medical Center located in Mather, CA. Required on-site rotations will be completed in the greater Sacramento area. The VANCHCS is pictured above.

Although residents are located in Sacramento, rotations may be completed throughout the health care system either virtually or on-site if resident is agreeable to commute. PGY1 residents may rotate through clinics located at Mare Island, Martinez, Fairfield, Sacramento and McClellan.

Components of the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

Orientation

Orientation will occur during the month of July and includes orientation to the health care system, designated residency learning experiences, PharmAcademic evaluation system, clinical practice, computer training and other miscellaneous mandatory training.

Residency Learning Experiences

The residency year will consist of both core (required) and elective learning experiences. Currently, the following experiences are offered by the VANCHCS:

Required Learning Experiences

- Introduction to Pharmacy Service (Orientation)— 1-2 weeks
- Acute Care (Internal Medicine)— 6 weeks
- Ambulatory Care — 6 weeks
- Outpatient Pharmacy Operations— 4 weeks
- Pharmacy Administration (Chief, Quality, Drug Information)—5-6 weeks

Elective Learning Experiences (5-6 weeks each)

- Ambulatory Care II
- Anticoagulation Clinic
- Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Formulary Management
- Cardiology
- Neurology
- Emergency Department
- Home Based Primary Care
- Infectious Disease
- Inpatient Pharmacy Operations
- Mental Health (Outpatient, Inpatient & Primary Care Integrated)
- Pulmonology
- Transitions of Care
- Repeat/extension of any required experience

Other Longitudinal Learning Experiences

- Pharmacy Quality Improvement/Research Project
- On a quarterly basis, each resident serves as Chief Resident concurrent with other rotation

Other Required Activities

- Medication Use Evaluation
- Drug Use Criteria Update
- Journal Club
- Inpatient Clinical/Operational Staffing on a rotational basis to start midway through residency year
- BLS Certification (ACLS Certification optional)

Additional Training - Pharmacy Teaching Program

- Pharmacy residents participate in the teaching of Doctor of Pharmacy students from the University of the Pacific, Touro University, California Northstate University and University of California, San Francisco Schools of Pharmacy
- Pharmacy Residents serve as a preceptor to APPE students during rotations by providing formal and informal teaching and mentoring

Applicant Qualifications and Process

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

- Register with the National Matching Service (NMS).
- Possess United States citizenship.
- Possess a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited School or College of Pharmacy.
- PGY1 applicants must be eligible for licensure to practice pharmacy in any state at the beginning of their residency program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- All application materials must be submitted through PhORCAS, as below (no late submission accepted):
 - **Phase I Deadline for PGY1 Program: December 26, 2022**
 - **Phase II Deadline for PGY1 Program: March 22, 2023**
- Submitted materials through PhORCAS must include:
 - 1) Official transcripts from School/College of Pharmacy (sent directly to PhORCAS from your school)
 - 2) Personal Statement/Letter of Intent
 - a. PGY1 applicants: Include your short-term and long-term professional goals. Describe how our residency program will assist you in accomplishing your goals.
 - 3) Curriculum Vitae
 - a. Include details of rotation activities for in-progress, completed and to-be completed rotations. Include duration spent on each rotation. Also, include details of extracurricular activities.
 - 4) Three (#3) letters of recommendation using the standardized reference template in PhORCAS
 - a. PGY1 applicants: At least one (#1) letter writer should be a preceptor of a direct patient care APPE (preferably inpatient internal medicine or ambulatory care).
 - 5) Supplemental information
 - PGY1 applicants: VA Form #10-2850D
 - The VA Form #10-2850D (Application for Health Professions Trainees) is accessible at <http://www.va.gov/oaa/archive/vaform10-2850d.pdf>.

Selected applicants will be invited to *virtual interviews* occurring in late-January through early February 2023. An interview is required. On-site visits may be arranged at applicant's request. All applicants who are not invited for an interview will be notified by e-mail no later than January 23, 2023.

Current PGY1 Residents



First Position Accepted Post-Residency 2013-2022 Classes

PGY1 Pharmacy Residents

- PGY2 Outcomes and Health Care Analytics at the VA's VISN 21 (x2 graduates)
- PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Madison
- PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Palo Alto
- PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Northern California (x2 graduates)
- PGY2 Transitions of Care at Sharp HealthCare in San Diego
- Ambulatory Care pharmacist at VA Northern California (x10 graduates)
- Ambulatory Care pharmacist at Kaiser Sacramento
- Ambulatory Care pharmacist at Kaiser San Jose
- Ambulatory Care pharmacist at Kaiser South Sacramento
- Ambulatory Care pharmacist at Kaiser South San Francisco
- Ambulatory Care pharmacist at Kaiser Oakland
- Transitions of Care Pharmacist at VA Northern California
- Pharmacoconomics pharmacist at VA Sierra Nevada
- Pharmacoconomics pharmacist at VA Northern California (x2 graduates)
- Oncology Clinical pharmacist at VA Northern California

- ED pharmacist at VA Northern California
- Poison Control pharmacist at San Diego Poison Control Center
- Outpatient pharmacist at VA Northern California (x2 graduates)
- Outpatient pharmacist at New Mexico VA
- Inpatient pharmacist at VA Palo Alto
- Inpatient pharmacist at NorthBay Healthcare in Fairfield
- Clinical pharmacist at Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center in Washington
- Clinical Pharmacist Floater at VA Northern California (x2 graduates)

PGY1 Match Information

PGY1 Match Information	
Resident's Location	Sacramento: 4 residents
ASHP Program Code	92422
NMS Code	Sacramento: 208121

Should positions remain open in Phase II of the Match, please contact the residency program director [via email](#) for any additional application requirements. Applications for any open positions in Phase II are due March 22, 2023.

For additional information, contact:

Mary Cradick, Pharm.D., BCACP
 PGY1 Residency Program Director
 10535 Hospital Way
 Pharmacy Service (119)
 Mather, CA 95655
 mary.cradick@va.gov
 Phone: 561-774-4107



ASHP accredits the PGY1 pharmacy residency program at VANCHCS