

VAMCHS Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2)  
Ambulatory Care Pharmacy  
Residency Program Learning Experience Descriptions

VA



**Orientation:** Orientation is conducted at the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) and in conjunction with the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. During this experience, the resident will complete the VA requirements for New Employee Orientation. The resident will be oriented to the Pharmacy Operations throughout the Medical Center via direct observation and participation with the Pharmacy Staff. The resident will be granted computer access and will receive computer training for the hospital computer system. A general ambulatory care clinic orientation will be provided with various preceptors as well as an introduction of clinical pharmacy administration. The resident will also orient at the School of Pharmacy with activities including introduction to Pharmacotherapy Rounds, and an overview of the wide array of teaching opportunities and other elective activities. The resident must participate in the teaching excellence day. The resident will orient to research, complete required research training and select a project by completion of orientation.

**Ambulatory Care Required Longitudinal Clinic Learning Experiences:**

**Patient Care Aligned Team (PACT) Primary Care Clinic:** This is an ambulatory care learning experience emphasizing primary care with management of chronic disease states including but not limited to HTN, DM, and Hyperlipidemia. Under supervision of the preceptor, residents will provide direct patient care while supporting primary care providers. The resident will conduct chart reviews, patient interviews, basic physical assessment and develop appropriate care plans including appropriate laboratory testing, medication orders and follow-up and documentation in a timely, efficient manner. This clinic can be assigned at the Baltimore, Perry Point or Eastern Baltimore County Campuses.

**Cardiovascular Lipid Risk Reduction Clinic:** The lipid clinic serves as a centralized follow-up and monitoring service for patients with hyperlipidemia. Under supervision of the preceptor, the resident will provide direct patient care and provide consistent and appropriate follow-up to patients with hyperlipidemia. The resident will optimize patient care through education, life-style modifications, and pharmacologic therapy based upon the most recent VA Health Administration (VHA) guidelines and current literature. The resident will assist in the ordering and monitoring of laboratory tests. Medication titration and adjustment will be provided with timely follow-up to ensure patient safety with medication use. The residents will co-precept an APPE student as part of this experience.

**Endocrine Diabetes Clinic:** The endocrine diabetes clinic serves to provide coordinated care for patients previously diagnosed with diabetes mellitus, including management of drug therapies for diabetes and its related complications, patient education, and screening tests for health maintenance. The pharmacist clinic is run in conjunction with the Endocrine Service. Under supervision of the preceptor, the resident will provide direct

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patient care and provide consistent and appropriate follow-up to patients with diabetes with a focus of achieving patient specific hemoglobin A1c, blood pressure, and lipid goals. The resident will optimize patient care through education, life-style modifications, and pharmacologic therapy based upon the most recent VHA guidelines and current literature. The resident will assist in the ordering and monitoring of laboratory tests. Medication titration and adjustment will be provided with timely follow-up to ensure patient safety with medication use.

**Anticoagulation Clinic:** This is a longitudinal, ambulatory care clinic learning experience. The anticoagulation clinic serves as a centralized clinic for patient evaluation and assessment at initial and follow-up patients receiving oral anticoagulation, adjusted dose heparin, and/or Low Molecular Weight Heparin and (LMWH). Under supervision of the preceptor, the resident will provide direct patient care and provide consistent and appropriate monitoring and follow-up to patients enrolled in the anticoagulation clinic. The resident will educate patients on the indications for therapy, potential complications and adverse effects of anticoagulation, adjust medication dosing as necessary to prevent complications, and seek timely physician assistance when patient problems are identified. This clinic will be assigned at the Baltimore, Loch Raven, Perry Point or Eastern Baltimore County facilities.

**Home Based Primary Care (HBPC):** This is a longitudinal, ambulatory care clinic learning experience. The HBPC program is part of ambulatory care services that serves generally geriatric patients who are homebound and thus unable to receive care in the VA primary care clinics. This program provides comprehensive primary care of the patient's chronic disease states. Because the goal is patient-centered care, each patient has an interdisciplinary team consisting of a clinical pharmacy specialist, nurse practitioner, registered nurses, social worker, psychologist, kinesiologist, dietician and administrative support staff that looks after them. Clinical Pharmacy Specialists participate on the team by assessing patient's overall medication management on home visits, telephone visits, and chart reviews, and by making therapy recommendations to providers. This learning experience occurs at the VAMHCS Community Living Center/Loch Raven Campus.

**Hepatitis C Clinic:** The resident will function as a part of the multidisciplinary Hepatitis C (HCV) Clinic at the Baltimore, VA. This learning experience will focus on the pharmacy review and approval of requests for HCV treatment for veterans within VAMHCS. Each consult will consist of a thorough review of the veterans' pre-treatment evaluation by the HCV providers, assessment of whether or not the request meets VA PBM criteria for use, drug-drug interaction review with recommendations for monitoring while on treatment. The resident may also be asked to be available during clinic hours to review charts with the HCV providers to verify treatment candidacy prior to actual e-consult placement. They will also be expected to participate in answering any pharmacy related questions that may arise from the Hepatitis C Team.

**Women's Health Clinic:** The women's health clinic serves as a primary care clinic designed to improve access and quality of care for women Veterans in a safe and sensitive environment. The Women's Health Clinic is staffed by Comprehensive Women's Health Physician Providers, a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with an approved Scope of Practice, Maternity Care Coordinators, the Female Veterans Program Manager, PACT Care Coordinators, Women's Health Nurse Practitioners, Licensed Practice Nurses, Social Workers, Psychologist, and Health Technicians. Under supervision of the preceptor, the resident will provide direct patient care and provide consistent and appropriate follow-up to patients. The resident will enhance knowledge gained in other ambulatory clinics by providing gender specific pharmaceutical care including but not limited to: chronic disease state management, preconception counseling (to include immunizations), teratogenic medication reviews, infertility consults, breastfeeding/lactating medication reviews, contraceptive counseling, and transgender/transsexual care.

**Population Health Management:** The resident will become familiar with the different types of population management reports and the specific reports used at VAMHCS. VHA has established multiple electronic population health management tools and reports to assist clinicians in monitoring various medication safety parameters and medical conditions. Types of reports include panel-based, appointment-based, and trigger-based. The resident will be given the opportunity to review appropriateness of patient referral to clinical pharmacy specialist, primary care provider and/or specialist clinics using these population health management tools.

**Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Administration:** This learning experience will combine a variety of clinical pharmacy administrative activities and service development initiatives throughout the residency year. Different goals and objectives will be emphasized throughout the learning experience pending administrative needs at any given point throughout to allow the resident to gain insight and hands on experience with facility needs at any given point. Experiences include participation in updating pharmacy service Policies and/or Standard Operating Procedures, National and VISN initiatives such as cost initiative programs, multidisciplinary quality and performance improvement programs. The resident will also be exposed to pharmacy Scopes of Practices, competencies and clinic work-load; and gain insight into developing or evaluating an existing ambulatory care service if not part of the residency research project.

**VAMHCS Elective Longitudinal Learning Experiences:** A wide variety of VAMHCS Ambulatory Care clinics/learning experiences are available for the resident to choose from to tailor the resident's needs and interests throughout the year and to meet the residency requirements. VAMHCS elective ambulatory care clinics and learning experiences include but are not limited to the following: Heart Failure Clinic, Cardiology Transition of Care Clinic, Renal, Outpatient Antimicrobial Stewardship, Renal Clinic, Interdisciplinary Renal Transplant Clinic, Alzheimer's/Dementia Clinic, Cardiology Non-formulary Chart Review, Academic Detailing, and Whole Health Topic Discussion Series.

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## **Other Required Components:**

**Residency Project/Research:** The resident is required to conduct a residency project during the year. The project may be a service implementation/expansion project or may be a separate analysis of an existing ambulatory service or related to education or health care. Assistance with training requirements and navigating the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and VA Research and Development procedures is provided throughout the process if applicable. Residents are required to present at Eastern States Residents and Preceptors conference or other approved conference. Residents must prepare a report of their project in publishable format as part of the requirements for successful completion of their residency.

## **Pharmacy Education Series:**

**Journal Club:** Journal Club is conducted on the 4th Thursday of every month throughout the residency year with the VAMHCS residents and preceptors. Journal club consists of presentations of a study from a high impact, peer-reviewed biomedical journal that evaluates use of drug therapy for the treatment or prevention of disease.

**Case Presentation:** The resident will also provide presentations and interactive workshops of case studies that highlight appropriate clinical management of a therapeutic problem.

**Pharmacotherapy Rounds:** The goal of Pharmacotherapy Rounds is to provide the participant's knowledge regarding the use of drug therapy to treat and prevent disease. Participants will learn to evaluate the scientific literature and discuss its applicability to clinical practice. Participant will learn to present complex concepts and scientific data in a clear and concise manner. Presentation of a minimum of one formal presentation is required. Residents are required to attend a minimum of 10 sessions.

**Teaching:** The resident will be responsible for co-teaching at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. A minimum of two teaching activities per semester must be conducted during the residency year and approved by the RPD or PGY 2 preceptor designee. Teaching opportunities are also available through the University of Notre Dame of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Teaching activities may vary based on resident interest and experience, and include lectures, leading small group discussions, assessing Pharm.D. students on clinical skills. Residents work with faculty as they prepare for teaching activities. The resident is expected to attend Teaching Excellence Day and complete the teaching orientation at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

**Precepting:** During the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the residency year, the residents will serve as a co-preceptor during longitudinal lipid clinic for APPE students assigned to lipid clinic. The responsibilities of the PGY 2 resident as a co-preceptor will be based upon prior experience in the learning experience and prior teaching experience. During the second part of the residency year, the resident will serve as a lead preceptor for an Ambulatory Care APPE student for lipid clinic or a rotation block. They will assist with updating a learning syllabus, coordinating a schedule, and precepting the student during assigned clinics. Teaching and mentoring of Pharmacy VALOR students is also expected throughout the residency year.

**Rheumatology Case Series:** The resident will become familiar with the VAMHCS non-formulary process, by assessing pre-written rheumatology patient cases, by reviewing the indicated non-formulary criteria for use, by determining appropriateness of therapy, and by providing a recommendation for either an approval or denial of the request. The residents will meet with the preceptor on a weekly basis for the duration of 1 month to review and discuss the patient case/non-formulary request.