



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
New Jersey Health Care System



PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Rotation Descriptions

Rotations at the VA New Jersey Health Care System (VANJHCS) consist of 7 required core experiences and 5 elective experiences. Rotations are 4 -5 weeks in length. You will spend at least 70% of your time involved in direct patient care activities.

The required core rotations are: ambulatory (primary) care, anti-coagulation, inpatient acute care/internal medicine, orientation, pharmacy practice, pharmacy services administration & leadership and psychiatric pharmacy. Elective rotations can be an extension of a core rotation(s), ambulatory care infectious diseases, home-based primary care/rural health, extended care/geriatrics, pharmacy informatics or an individualized rotation based on your interests and preceptor resources.

Year-long longitudinal experiences include: major project with ASHP poster presentation culminating in a presentation at the Eastern States Conference for Pharmacy Residents and Preceptors and a publishable manuscript, medication use evaluation, medication safety/adverse drug event reporting, non-formulary/prior authorization drug consult reviews, pharmacy resident clinic with anti-coagulation and primary care patients, pharmacy practice experience (staffing), and a pharmacy systems project.

There are a variety of pharmacy education experiences throughout the year including opportunities in staff education, patient education, and precepting pharmacy students. You will have experiences in preparing and delivering both educational and training sessions of various types to healthcare colleagues supplemented by readings, projects, and discussions (i.e. drug information, journal club, in-services, etc.). Patient education may occur in the clinical setting, informal didactic settings or other venues such as healthcare fairs. You will establish professional relationships and develop time management, project management, decision making and communication skills.

CORE ROTATIONS

Ambulatory Care (Primary Care)

Primary Care is delivered using the medical home model referred to as Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) within the VA. These interdisciplinary teams include primary care providers (e.g. physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant), care coordinators, clinical pharmacist specialists, nurses, medical support assistants and other members of the healthcare team. Providing medication therapy management for chronic disease states including diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and smoking cessation, clinical pharmacist specialists manage their own clinics under a scope of practice with prescriptive authority.

During this rotation, you will see patients in a clinic setting and have experiences developing, implementing, adjusting, and monitoring drug treatment plans. Using treatment guidelines and current literature, you will provide evidence based disease state management, patient education, and lifestyle modification counseling to ensure the safe and effective use of medications and optimal patient care. You will learn to prioritize the delivery of patient-centered care, triage ambulatory care patients, collect and analyze patient information, and document patient care activities in medical record progress notes. You will serve as the drug information expert for the PACT team.

Anticoagulation

Outpatient anticoagulation management is a consult service provided by the clinical pharmacist specialist managing the anticoagulation clinic under a scope of practice with prescriptive authority. Patients are located across the campuses and clinics of VANJHCS.

During this rotation, you will provide anticoagulation therapy management in different settings - clinic visits for newly enrolled patients and via telephone for patients established in the clinic. You will serve as the drug information expert for anticoagulation. Experiences include evaluation of new anticoagulation consults, transition of care coordination, pre-procedural patient education, and provider in-services. You may be involved with on-going best practice projects.

Inpatient Acute Care/Internal Medicine

During this rotation, you will participate in the management of all aspects of pharmacotherapy for acutely ill adult patients admitted to the East Orange campus medical center. This inpatient rotation includes intensive care, general medical/surgical and anti-coagulation experiences. Throughout the rotation, you will develop patient assessment skills including conducting thorough chart reviews and interpretation of laboratory results and chart note writing skills to document patient care activities.

During the critical care experience, you will participate in daily rounds with an interdisciplinary team consisting of an attending pulmonary/ICU physician, pulmonary fellow, medical residents, clinical pharmacist, and nurses. You will serve as the drug information expert for the ICU team.

The medical/surgical inpatient experience includes medication reconciliation upon admission and at discharge, reviewing non-formulary/prior authorization drug consults, and performing clinical interventions during medication order processing. You may also be involved in parenteral nutrition therapy management. The anticoagulation experience includes monitoring therapeutic anticoagulation for inpatients and transition of care management to the outpatient anticoagulation clinic.

Orientation

This ASHP required rotation will familiarize you with policies, procedures, work flow and the VA computer system. You will be oriented to residency expectations, the PharmAcademic™ system, VANJHCS, Pharmacy Service, longitudinal experiences, the computerized medical record and outpatient pharmacy practice functions.

Pharmacy Services Administration & Leadership

During this rotation, you will participate in Pharmacy Services management, work on relevant assignments/projects, and attend committee meetings with Pharmacy Service representatives. You will have experiences with policy updates, budget and resource management, and act as the pharmacy supervisor for a day. The focus of the rotation is to understand essential elements of the VA organization, pharmacy operations, human resources, budget, procurement, staff supervision, and other administrative components as they present during the rotation.

You will be given independent time to learn, evaluate, and make recommendations about current policy and procedures. Rotation elements are dynamic and your experience may vary depending on current inspections, national policy directives and mandates, or other timely issues occurring in the Pharmacy Service. Independent work and time management skills are essential for success in this rotation.

Pharmacy Practice

During this rotation, you will have experiences in the drug distribution process utilizing multiple software and hardware systems including CPRS (Computerized Patient Record System), VISTA (Veterans Health Information System and Technology Architecture), ScriptPro™, Talyst™ and Omnicell™. Learning activities are geared towards proficiency with these systems as they are the foundation for your future rotations, patient care activities, and resident projects.

Experiences in inpatient and outpatient services include reviewing and processing patient-specific orders, controlled substances dispensing, preparing IV medications, patient counseling, medication reconciliation and communicating medication-related issues with providers. Learning activities are facilitated by different pharmacy staff with expertise in the various areas of pharmacy practice. The goal of this rotation is for you to become a confident and capable independent practicing pharmacist.

Psychiatry (Mental & Behavioral Health)

VANJHCS provides a broad range of mental health services including acute inpatient, long term psychiatric care, inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment, methadone maintenance program and residential programs including Women's Trauma Unit and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The experiences during this rotation will be in a variety of these settings.

During this rotation, you will have experiences in conducting chart reviews, preparing and updating pharmaceutical care plans, monitoring drug therapy for therapeutic effect, appropriateness, and adverse events, participating as a member of the psychiatric treatment care team and serving as the drug information expert for the Mental & Behavioral Health Service. You will document your clinical activities in progress notes. You will gain experience in the management of psychiatric illnesses including PTSD, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, depression, and substance abuse. The focus of the experiences will be the delivery of evidence based drug therapy using treatment guidelines and current literature to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

ELECTIVE ROTATIONS (Choice of 5)

Core Rotation Extension

You may extend a core rotation in an area(s) of interest.

Ambulatory Care Infectious Disease (ID)

This rotation focuses on the treatment of Hepatitis C and HIV in ambulatory care. The ID Service includes an interdisciplinary team of ID attending physicians, ID fellows, medical residents/students, clinical pharmacy specialists, physician assistants, and nurses. The clinical pharmacy specialists have scope of practice with prescriptive authority and manage patients with Hepatitis C and/or HIV. During this rotation, you will manage patients in the Pharmacy Infectious Disease Clinic, both face-to-face clinic visits and by telephone. You will participate in regional and national video-conference meetings and continuing education sessions.

Experiences include performing thorough chart reviews, developing and initiating drug treatment plans, reviewing patient medications for drug-drug and drug-disease interactions, ordering and evaluating laboratory tests and imaging, adjusting drug doses, and providing extensive patient counseling to enhance medication compliance and reduce adverse effects. You will serve as the drug information expert for the ID team.

Rural Health/Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

The Rural Health/HBPC program provides primary care to Veterans in their homes. You will have experiences in medication therapy management by conducting chart reviews and making recommendations to optimize drug therapy, participating in interdisciplinary treatment team meetings, conducting patient visits in the Veteran's home or by telephone follow-up calls, and acting as the drug expert for the Rural Health team. Your clinical activities will be documented in progress notes.
Individualized Rotation

Extended Care/Geriatrics

This rotation focuses on the treatment of geriatric patients and the drug pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics differences in this patient population. It includes learning experiences in drug use in palliative care and end of life care. Experiences are in the care of geriatric patients residing in the nursing home/community living center setting. You will have experiences in medication therapy management through the monthly review of patient charts. You will make drug therapy recommendations for optimal patient care that will be documented in a progress note, attend interdisciplinary team meetings and serve as the drug information expert for the extended care team.

Spinal Cord Injury

In this rotation, you will learn how to manage the special needs of spinal cord injury patients. You will have experiences in medication therapy management by conducting chart reviews and making recommendations to optimize drug therapy, participating in interdisciplinary treatment team meetings, conducting patient visits in the inpatient setting, the Veteran's home, or by telephone follow-up calls, and acting as the drug expert for the Spinal Cord Injury team. Your clinical activities will be documented in progress notes.

Pharmacy Informatics

In this rotation you will develop the skills necessary for the practical application of pharmacy information and automated technology assessment principles in a large integrated healthcare system. You will gain exposure to the VA automated systems – Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), Barcode Medication Administration (BCMA), medication storage and packaging devices (Omniceil[®], Talyst[®]), medication dispensing robotics (Optifill[®], ScriptPro[®]), and a variety of clinical care databases. You will gain experience in various methods of obtaining data using Fileman and SQL server management studio. You will learn how computer system databases, system interfaces, clinical drug databases, and clinical decision support are used to support Pharmacy Service and clinical operations. Depending on VA initiatives during the rotation, you may be involved with the planning and implementation of new systems or upgrades of existing systems.

Individualized Rotation

An individualized rotation can be developed based your interests and preceptor availability.

LONGITUDINAL EXPERIENCES

Ambulatory Care & Anticoagulation

You will be assigned a panel of patients to manage and follow after completion of your 5-week long ambulatory care rotation. Patients will be scheduled into a separate Resident Primary Care Clinic. Your preceptor will follow your progress throughout the year. Following completion of your anticoagulation rotation, you will have three patients on warfarin to manage and follow for the rest of the residency year. As you progress, additional patients will be assigned. You will act as the point of contact for the patient and be responsible for following up with the patient in a timely manner after results are posted, scheduling labs, and managing refills.

Major Project/Research

You will develop project management skills by completing a practice-related major project of publishable quality. Your topic should be relevant to medication use, patient safety, or resource utilization management and be of value to Pharmacy Service and the facility. You will have experiences in literature review, project design, data gathering, statistical evaluation, manuscript writing and presentation of your project as an ASHP poster and at the Eastern States Conference for Pharmacy Residents and Preceptors. You will work closely with the Residency Program Director and project preceptor(s) who will assist you at each step of the process.

Medication Safety/Adverse Drug Events (ADE)

You will have experiences in evaluation of adverse drug events (ADEs), preparing an ADEs monthly report, documenting and submitting relevant ADEs to the Food and Drug Administration's MedWatch program, and communicating findings to the relevant VANHCS Committees.

Medication Use Evaluation (MUE)

You will complete an MUE and report the findings to the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. Experiences include developing MUE criteria, data gathering and analysis, and the written and oral presentation of findings.

Non-Formulary Medication/Prior Authorization Consult Service

You will experience the non-formulary/prior authorization drug consult process by reviewing and then either approving or not approving requests for non-formulary/prior authorization medications. You will be responsible for documenting your decision and rationale using the appropriate note template within the computerized medical record.

Pharmacy Practice (Staffing)

The goal of the staffing component is to ensure that you can function autonomously as a registered pharmacist. You will gain experience in inpatient and outpatient drug distribution and pharmacy operations including reviewing and processing patient-specific orders, preparing IV medications, patient counseling, medication reconciliation and communicating with providers about medication-related issues. Staffing is required at East Orange every fourth weekend in the Inpatient Pharmacy and one day per month in the Outpatient Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Systems Project

You will gain management experience and project management skills by designing and implementing a pharmacy process to improve the delivery of pharmacy services. The project will involve problem analysis, system design, and process implementation.

TEACHING CERTIFICATE (optional)

A Teaching Certificate program is offered by the Rutgers University School of Pharmacy and Fairleigh Dickinson University beginning in September. This elective is optional and chosen above and beyond the requirements of the residency program. Participation is highly encouraged. Your schedule will be coordinated to allow time to attend teaching lectures, activities and workshops.

You may need to make up time away from the normal duty hours of the rotation at the discretion of your preceptor. You will learn strategies to teach the adult learner, discussion facilitation, syllabus design, and how to create a lecture. You will precept a pharmacy student prior to completion of the residency. A completed teaching portfolio must be submitted to receive a certificate.