

# Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

## PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

[www.va.gov/hines-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/pharmacy-residency-programs/](http://www.va.gov/hines-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/pharmacy-residency-programs/)

[ASHP Directory Info. Program Code: 41800](#)

[NMS Code: 166813](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions and Program Information

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital residency program develops the resident into a versatile practitioner able to excel in pharmacy practice, pharmacotherapy education, and administrative practice through active participation in a variety of settings. Learning experiences available for residents to rotate through include:

- **Ambulatory Care – Primary Care and Specialty clinics**
- **Anticoagulation**
  - Outpatient Clinic
  - Inpatient Management
  - Centralized Anticoagulation Hub
- **Critical Care**
  - Medical Intensive Care
  - Surgical Intensive Care
- **Emergency Medicine**
- **Geriatrics**
  - Community Living Center – Inpatient Care
  - Home Based Primary Care
  - Hospice/Palliative Care
- **Hematology/Oncology**
- **Hospital Practice**
- **Infectious Diseases**
- **Informatics**
- **Internal Medicine**
- **Mental Health (Psychiatry)**
- **Nephrology**
- **Pharmacoeconomics**
- **Pharmacovigilance (available through Pharmacy Benefits Management)**
- **Pharmacy Administration**
  - Formulary Management
  - Policy Management
  - Safety Management
- **Pharmacy Staffing**
- **Renal Transplant**
- **Teaching and Learning Certificate**
- **Transitions of Care/Spinal Cord Injury**

## **Where is Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital located?**

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital is located just outside the western city limits of Chicago and is less than a half-hour drive from downtown using the Eisenhower (290) Expressway. The campus is also accessible by public transportation. Hines VA is affiliated with the Loyola University Medical Center and Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois, and has many affiliated practitioners.

## **What is the purpose statement for the pharmacy residency?**

PGY1 Program Purpose: PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on 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, eligible for board certification, and eligible for postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training.

## **Is the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program ASHP accredited?**

Yes- We were given full accreditation of 8 years by ASHP in 2019. The PGY-1 program went through a reaccreditation survey in 2022, with a planned update to accreditation duration from ASHP in mid-2023

## **How many residents are being recruited?**

Five

## **What are the pharmacy residency applicant requirements?**

- U.S. Citizenship
- Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE Accredited College of Pharmacy or equivalent experience
- Eligible for licensure to practice pharmacy in one of the states or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia on or before 90 days after starting residency

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA)/Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) oversees all clinical health professions training programs. To participate in training at a VA, a Health Professions Trainee (HPT) must meet all federal eligibility requirements. Anyone who is unable to meet all requirements will not be permitted to train at VA. HPTs will be asked to show documented proof for each eligibility requirement and must maintain eligibility for the duration of the VA appointment. If any questions exist after reviewing the information, please contact the RPD.

You can find detailed information on requirements for appointment to the VA here: [Am I Eligible? Checklist for VA HPTs](#). We encourage all candidates to review this, in detail.

Please be aware, in particular, of the following:

Drug-Free Workplace: HPTs are not drug-tested prior to receiving an appointment; however certain HPTs are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. HPTs sign an acknowledgement form stating awareness of this practice

Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation: HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. A VA Human Resources Security Specialist will determine suitability. Additional details can be found here: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>

Health Requirements: As a condition of appointment, HPTs must: furnish evidence or a self-certification that they are physically and mentally fit to perform the essential functions of the training program have up-to date vaccinations for healthcare workers as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>; and have undergone baseline tuberculosis (TB) screening and testing per CDC health care personnel guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm> (for direct VA-paid HPTs, this means within 90-days of Offer and Acceptance.)

Immunizations: VA employees and HPTs are expected and will need to attest to being up to date with multiple vaccines, including influenza and COVID-19.

Licensure Timeline: As specified in detail elsewhere in this document, licensure is expected within 90 days of the start of residency

If any questions exist after reviewing the information above, please contact the RPD.

## **How does an interested residency candidate learn more about the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital?**

In addition to information posted to our website (link above), we have historically attended several events to share our program with interested candidates. Most notably, the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHSP) Residency Showcase hosted each year in September and the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting Residency Showcase hosted in December. We have also elected to have preceptors and residents attend several College of Pharmacy Open House events.

Lastly, for the past several years, the Hines VA Pharmacy Residency Programs have hosted a virtual open-house event to share details of our program and allow candidates the opportunity to meet with residents and preceptors. Invitations for these are sent to many Colleges of Pharmacy to share with any graduating class. However, for anyone interested in future dates- please contact the Residency Program Director listed on our website.

## **How does an interested residency candidate apply for the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program?**

Submit the required application materials through the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS). The PhORCAS website is available at <http://www.ashp.org/phorcas> or <https://portal.phorcas.org/>. Selections for residents is through the National Matching Services, Inc.

## **Does the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY1 Pharmacy Residency interview the interested candidate?**

Yes. Selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. For the 2023-2024 recruitment cycle- we will continue hosting virtual interviews

During the interview candidates can anticipate being asked questions that will assess their verbal skills and determine their thoughts and views on such areas as personal mastery, interpersonal effectiveness, technical skills, customer service, flexibility and adaptability, organizational stewardship, and creative thinking. Candidates will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the residency program and meet several residents and preceptors.

There will be a presentation component to the interview. Information will be shared at the time of interview invitation.

## **How is the residency candidate notified if they “Match” with the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program?**

Match result information will be released to applicants and program directors in **March** for Phase I of the “Match” and **April** for Phase II of the “Match.”

The Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital Residency Program Director will contact the matched applicant following the “Match.” The matched applicant will receive a letter of confirmation that details the expectations and requirements of the residency program. We will ask that you sign and return to the residency program director after reviewing. Information will also be shared to begin the Human Resources (HR) and on-boarding process.

## **What is the starting date and length of the residency program?**

The residency program starts on July 1<sup>st</sup> and is expected to be one year in length. The start date is not flexible given funding sources for VA-sponsored residency programs and program requirements. Circumstances that extend the residency beyond 1-year may exist and will be covered during the interview to provide specifics.

## **What is the salary offered for residents?**

As of January 2023, the annual salary is \$52,691 per year for PGY1 residents.

## **What benefits are offered?**

- A variety of health insurance options are available
- 11 paid holidays, 13 vacation days, and 13 sick days
- Laboratory coats
- Each resident has a computer, desk, dual monitors, file space, and phone
- The residents share an office area
- Approved absence for the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (IHP) Annual Fall Meeting, ASHP Midyear Meeting, and for major project presentation in the spring. Funding/Support for attendance at these events is provided
- Medical Library with electronic journal access
- Free 24-hour access to employee gym
- Opportunities to attend multi-disciplinary presentations

## **Are there any licensing requirements?**

Early pharmacist licensure post-graduation ensures the most robust residency experience. We recommend you create a NABP e-Profile, complete the online North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) registration form, and pay fees ahead of graduation for your NAPLEX and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE). This will expedite the process of receiving your Authorization to Test (ATT) letter. Licensure may be from any of the 50 states.

The expectation is that you will be licensed within 90 days of starting your residency, typically near the end of September. If not licensed within 90 days, the RPD and RAC will determine an action plan, including but not limited to resident dismissal. Based on the RAC's assessment of performance up to that point of residency and timeliness of the resident attempting to obtain licensure, an additional 30-day paid max grace period may be granted. Per ASHP standards, a minimum of 2/3 of residency must be completed as a licensed pharmacist.

Extensions for issues outside of your control may be granted, such as the extraordinary changes with the COVID-19 Pandemic. These extensions will be based off of official guidance from ASHP, VA/OAA, or a similar group. Please keep the Residency Program Director (RPD) and Residency Program Coordinator (RPC) aware of any limitations in obtaining licensure in your State of choice. Since the VA Pharmacy Residency Program is a stipend appointment, any training extension beyond 366 days may place the resident in a leave without pay (LWOP) status until the requirements are met. Duration of LWOP status will be determined by the RPD, Chief of Pharmacy, and Hospital Director, with consultation from the Pharmacy Residency Program Office (PRPO). The resident may incur additional expense for medical benefits beyond 366 days.

## **How long are rotations?**

All rotations are 5 weeks in length.

## **What rotations are required?**

- Ambulatory Care
- Anticoagulation
- Administration and Formulary Management
- Geriatrics
- Hospital Pharmacy Practice
- Internal Medicine

## **What elective rotations are available?**

- Ambulatory Care – Primary care or Specialty Clinics
- Centralized Anticoagulation Hub
- Critical Care
- Emergency Medicine
- Hematology/Oncology
- Hospice & Palliative Care
- Internal Medicine
- Infectious Diseases
- Informatics
- Mental Health (Psychiatry)
- Nephrology

- Pharmacoeconomics
- Pharmacovigilance
- Renal Transplant
- Transitions of Care/Spinal Cord Injury

### **How many elective rotations can I take?**

Three (3) elective rotations.

### **Will all rotations be experienced at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital campus?**

All clinical rotations except for the Ambulatory Care learning experience will be on the Hines campus. The Hines VA campus and the six Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) all provide primary care to our veteran patients. During the Ambulatory Care rotation, residents will be assigned to the Hines location and one of the following six CBOCs (Aurora, Hoffman Estates, Joliet, Kankakee, La Salle, and Oak Lawn) depending on the availability of the preceptors and the resident's desire for precepting pharmacy students. Travel will be expected to the CBOCs, with the exception of Kankakee and LaSalle given the significant distance from the main Hospital.

### **Can rotations be experienced at an outside facility for learning experiences not offered at the Hines VA Hospital (e.g., pediatrics and transplantation, etc.)?**

Rotations are to be completed within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Elective rotations are flexible within the facility and can sometimes be accommodated at other local VA hospitals (for rotations not available at Hines), but there are no rotations offered outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### **What other projects/experiences are required during the residency?**

- Present a journal club presentation to clinical staff
- Create and present an ACPE CE Seminar
- Complete a medication use evaluation (MUE)
- Develop/update a pharmacy protocol or policy
- Complete a major pharmacy project (including presentation at a pharmacy resident conference and completion a manuscript suitable for publication)
- Serve as Chief Resident for two (2) months
- Lead patient group education groups
- Take part and earn a residency teaching certificate
- Weekend staffing in inpatient pharmacy – Longitudinally during 1<sup>st</sup> half of residency year. Dual appointment to work as an inpatient clinical pharmacist expected during 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. Details below

## **What areas of major pharmacy projects/research have been completed previously?**

- Anticoagulation
- Ambulatory Care/Primary Care
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Chronic Pain Management
- Critical Care
- Deprescribing
- Home-based primary care and Geriatrics
- Infectious Diseases
- Managing Shortages/Recalls/Therapeutic Switches
- Osteoporosis
- Patient distress with chronic disease states
- Spinal Cord Injury and Pharmacokinetics
- Vaccination rates and barriers

## **What types of major pharmacy projects have recent residents completed?**

### **2021-2022 Class**

- Josiah Baker – Evaluating the impact of PharmD intervention on osteoporosis screening and treatment initiation in veterans on chronic glucocorticoid therapy
- Erin Feeley – Clinical impact of the implementation of the diabetes distress score tool on type 2 diabetes management in VA outpatient clinics
- Leslie Johnson – Evaluation of SGLT-2 inhibitor impact on renal function in patients with diabetes mellitus and chronic kidney disease
- Tom Schultz – Comparing veteran influenza vaccination acceptance rates before and after completion of the COVID-19 vaccination series

## **2020-2021 Class**

- Josmi Joseph – Tolerability of sodium glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors in the VA population
- Ramsha Nisar – Impact of national metformin sustained-acting recall on veteran outcomes
- Reda Safi – Analysis of risk factors for inappropriate enteral medication usage in an outpatient veteran population
- Emily Scott – Changes in diabetes control with the use of continuous glucose monitoring
- Dana Shepherd – Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in Hospitalized Veterans with COVID-19

## **2019-2020 Class**

- Anitta Aickareth – Evaluation of patient factors and their impact on time in therapeutic range on warfarin therapy in a VA medical center
- Drew Bailey – De-prescribing aspirin for primary prevention in high bleeding risk elderly population
- Olga Bulakh – Evaluating the impact of a multi-step intervention on antimicrobial utilization and clinical outcomes in patients undergoing prostate needle biopsy at a VA facility
- Kathryn Gray – Assessment of an automated tool designed to identify medication changes for veterans in home-based primary care between two points in time
- Jimmy Nguyen – Validation of an AUC-based vancomycin dosing calculator in spinal cord injury patients

## **What other activities may the resident be involved in?**

- Contribute to article(s) for the pharmacy newsletter sent out to Hospital staff
- Become familiar with the reporting and analysis of adverse drug events
- Present to the P&T Committee
- Participate in the medication error work group, and other Hospital committees
- Lecture or small-group opportunities through professional colleges (pharmacy, nursing)

## **Do residents have the opportunity to precept students?**

Yes. Residents will have an opportunity to co-precept pharmacy students with assistance and direction from preceptors.

## **Does the residency have a drug distribution (staffing) component?**

Yes. Part of a well-rounded quality pharmacy residency program includes drug distribution (staffing) to expand the resident's knowledge and experience regarding the complete process of drug delivery to patients. Residents will begin training for this during July's Orientation. Staffing as a resident will be expected during the first 6 months of residency.

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital Pharmacy Residents have the opportunity for 'dual appointment' where a resident would work and be compensated as a licensed pharmacist in lieu of staffing as a pharmacy resident.

Regardless of staffing as resident or as a pharmacist the expectation is working one (1) weekend shift every three (3) weekends, along with splitting the coverage of federal holidays between the PGY-1 and ID PGY-2 residents (typically 1-2 holidays/resident).

## **Is BLS/ACLS training mandatory? Is there an "on-call" program? Is there "code-blue" responsibility?**

BLS training is mandatory and ACLS training is available. There is no "on-call" program or "code blue" responsibility.

## **What patient record system is used at the Hines VA Hospital?**

All patient records are electronic and in computerized format. This allows more safe, efficient, and effective treatment of patients as well as simplified data collection for residency projects. Drug information resources are widely available on the network. Currently, Hines VA utilizes the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) and Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA).

Updates are planned for a transition to the Oracle Cerner Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. Implementation and go-live dates are TBD.

## **Does the program have a teaching certificate?**

Yes, this is a required expectation of residents. This is provided through one of the local colleges of pharmacy to Hines Pharmacy Residents.

## **What settings are former Hines VA residency graduates working in now?**

- Clinical Pharmacy Practitioners
  - Ambulatory Care
  - Anticoagulation
  - Chronic Pain
  - Emergency Medicine
  - Geriatrics
  - Infectious Diseases
  - Intensive Care Unit
  - Internal Medicine
  - Mental Health
  - Nephrology
  - Neurology
- PGY1 & PGY2 Residency Directors
- Pharmacy Administration

- Directors
- Associate Directors
- Managers (Clinical, Program, and Operations)
- Clinical Pharmacists
- College of Pharmacy Faculty
- Pharmaceutical Industry
  - Safety Scientist
  - Field Medical Liaison
  - Medical Drug Library Pharmacist
  - Associate Director of Regulatory Affairs
- Pharmacy Benefits Management
  - Program Managers
  - Specialty Medication Managers
- FDA- Safety Evaluator
- FDA- Pharmacometrics Reviewer
- Informatics

**What are the profiles of *recent* Hines VA residency graduates?**

- **Class of 2022**

| Name                | PharmD Education                         | Current Position   |
|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>Josiah Baker</b> | <b>University of Illinois at Chicago</b> | <b>PGY-2 HSPAL Pharmacy Resident, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b>                   |
| Erin Feeley         | University of Kentucky                   | Clinical Pharmacy Specialist-Ambulatory Care, Ascension Healthcare, Chicago, IL                  |
| Leslie Johnson      | Chicago State University                 | Clinical Staff Pharmacist, Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn IL                           |
| <b>Tom Schultz</b>  | <b>Roosevelt University</b>              | <b>Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Pain Management, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b> |

- **Class of 2021:**

| <b>Name</b>         | <b>PharmD Education</b>                 | <b>Current Position</b>   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Josmi Joseph</b> | <b>Drake University</b>                 | <b>Clinical Assistant Professor, Roosevelt University, Schaumburg, IL</b><br><br><b>Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Ambulatory Care, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b> |
| <b>Ramsha Nisar</b> | <b>Midwestern University</b>            | <b>Clinical Pharmacist- Hybrid (Outpatient/Anticoagulation), Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b>   |
| Reda Safi           | University of Nebraska Medical Center   | Clinical Pharmacist, University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, IL  |
| <b>Emily Scott</b>  | <b>Midwestern University</b>            | <b>Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Internal Medicine, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b>  |
| Dana Shepherd       | University of California, San Francisco | Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Ambulatory Care, VA Southern Oregon Healthcare System, White City, OR   |

- **Class of 2020:**

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>PharmD Education</b>           | <b>Current Position</b>  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Anitta Aickareth</b> | <b>Florida A&amp;M University</b> | <b>Clinical Pharmacist-Inpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b>                     |
| Drew Bailey             | Rosalind Franklin University      | Clinical Pharmacist, Sinai Health, Chicago, IL   |
| Olga (Ola) Bulakh       | University of Illinois at Chicago | Clinical Pharmacist, Comprehensive Cancer Care Network, Zion, IL                                   |
| Kathryn Gray            | Drake University                  | Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care, UChicago Medicine, Chicago, IL                      |
| <b>Jimmy Nguyen</b>     | <b>Roosevelt University</b>       | <b>Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Internal Medicine, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b> |

- **Class of 2019:**

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>PharmD Education</b>                  | <b>Current Position</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Peter Carrizales</b> | <b>University of Illinois at Chicago</b> | <b>Clinical Pharmacist- Hybrid (Inpatient/Anticoagulation), Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b> |
| Courtney Hill           | Purdue University                        | Clinical Pharmacist, Patient Care, Genoa Healthcare, Chicago, IL   |
| Megan Mitchell (Sands)  | Midwestern University                    | Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care, Advocate Aurora Health, Aurora, IL                                 |
| Joyce Wang              | University of Wisconsin-Madison          | Pharmacist   |

- **Class of 2018:**

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>PharmD Education</b>                  | <b>Current Position</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Tyler Clemons           | Midwestern University                    | Clinical Pharmacist, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL   |
| <b>Georgiana Ismail</b> | <b>Midwestern University</b>             | <b>Clinical Pharmacist- Outpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b>                          |
| <b>Inela Masic</b>      | <b>Midwestern University</b>             | <b>Clinical Pharmacist- Hybrid (Outpatient/Anticoagulation), Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b> |
| <b>Jason Mei</b>        | <b>University of Illinois at Chicago</b> | <b>Clinical Pharmacist- Hybrid (Outpatient/Anticoagulation), Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL</b> |

**For more information about the pharmacy residency please contact:**

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