

VA Northern California Health Care System Pharmacy Residency Programs



Sacramento VA Medical Center; Mather, CA



VA Martinez Outpatient Clinic; Martinez, CA

2023 Residency Showcase Information



ASHP Midyear 2023

- Residency Showcase
- Tuesday, December 5th 8-11 am
- Booth #5097

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 in 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 eleven additional outpatient clinics. The outpatient clinics are in Auburn, Mare Island, Fairfield, McClellan (Sacramento area), Yuba City, Chico, Redding, Yreka, Auburn, Stockton, Sonora, and Modesto.

As part of the VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21), VANCHCS provides veterans access to an extensive range of health and specialty services. VISN 21 is one of eighteen VISNs in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). VISN 21 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.



VA Northern California Health Care System

Pharmacy Service

VANCHCS Pharmacy Service

The pharmacy service has over 150 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 (e.g. mental health, infectious diseases, academic detailing). 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.

The system for drug use control includes:

- (1) patient-specific drug distribution and administration logistics
- (2) participation in educational and therapeutic decisions supporting rational pharmacotherapy
- (3) consistent drug use monitoring and surveillance documenting and ensuring quality drug therapy outcomes

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. To accomplish this, the Pharmacy Service fosters continual 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



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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.
- PGY2 applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency or have equivalent experience. PGY2 applicants must also hold current pharmacist licensure in a State of the United States.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- All application materials must be submitted through PhORCAS, as below (no late submission accepted):
 - **Phase I Deadline for PGY2 Program: January 5, 2024**
 - **Phase II Deadline for ALL open Programs: March 22, 2024**
- Submitted materials must include (all materials must be submitted through PhORCAS):
 - Official transcripts from School/College of Pharmacy (sent directly to PhORCAS from your school)
 - Transcript must be official and indicate Pharm.D. degree was conferred.
 - Personal Statement/Letter of Intent
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - 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.
 - Three letters of recommendation using the standardized reference template in PhORCAS
 - Supplemental information
 - PGY2 applicants: Copy of pharmacist license, VA Form #10-2850D
 - The VA Form #10-2850D (Application for Health Professions Trainees) is accessible at <http://www.va.gov/oa/archive/vaform10-2850d.pdf>.
- Selected PGY2 applicants will be invited to interviews occurring in February. An interview is required. Interviews will take place on-site or virtually. All applicants who are not invited for an interview will be notified by e-mail no later than January 19, 2024.

General Residency Information

Pay and Benefits

- Period of Appointment
 - PGY2: 12 months, from July 2024 through July 2025
- *Estimated Stipend*
 - PGY2: \$55,521
- 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

Current licensure in at least one State of the United States is required at the time of application to the residency program. Therefore, all PGY2 residents are expected to be licensed prior to the start of the residency experience and will furnish VANCHCS with a copy of licensure. The residency experience is directly related to the status of licensure. Without licensure, skill building will be minimized leading to a less than optimal residency experience. Please note that out-of-state residents are welcome to pursue licensure in California, but it is not a requirement for working at VANCHCS. The only requirement is that the resident be licensed in at least one state of choice.

PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency Program Overview

Program Purpose

The VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) PGY2 psychiatric pharmacy residency program builds on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and PGY1 pharmacy residency programs to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists in the specialized area of psychiatric pharmacy practice. This PGY2 residency program provides residents with opportunities to function independently as practitioners by conceptualizing and integrating accumulated experience and knowledge and incorporating both into the provision of patient care that improves medication therapy in individuals with psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Residents who successfully complete this PGY2 pharmacy residency will possess competencies that qualify them for clinical pharmacist and/or faculty positions and position them to be eligible for attainment of board certification in psychiatric pharmacy practice.

Description of VANCHCS Mental Health Services

VANCHCS provides mental health services to an adult population with diagnoses including major depression, anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, trauma and stress-related disorders, and more. The system employs one inpatient, one rural health/telehealth, and eight outpatient psychiatric clinical pharmacy specialists, all of whom function as members of psychiatric interdisciplinary care teams. The Sacramento campus offers outpatient mental health services in General Mental Health (GMH), PTSD Clinical Team (PCT), Addiction Recovery Treatment Service (ARTS), Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) and inpatient acute stabilization in the 16-bed Behavioral Health Inpatient Care Unit (BHICU).

Facility

The resident is based at the Sacramento VA Medical Center campus. Most activities will occur from this site.

For additional information, contact:

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ASHP accredits the PGY2 psych pharmacy residency program at VANCHCS

PGY2 Residency Program Structure

Program Structure

The PGY2 program begins with 2-4 weeks of orientation followed by two consecutive 8-12 week blocks each in outpatient and inpatient mental health to complete the first half of the residency year. This serves to fully immerse the resident within the mental health service in order to build a solid foundation prior to shifting into the second half of the year, which will include blocks of elective rotations.

	PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy
Required Rotations	Outpatient Mental Health Inpatient Mental Health Administration and Professional Development Mental Health Didactics PBM and eConsult Service Residency Project
Elective Rotations	Post-discharge Clinic Pain Management Neurology Substance Use Disorders Primary Care Mental Health Integration Outpatient Triage
Locations	Sacramento, CA: 1 resident
ASHP Program Code	92123
NMS Code	723466

First Position Accepted Post-Residency 2013-2023 Classes

PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residents

- **Outpatient mental health pharmacist at Kaiser South San Jose**
- **Rural health clinical pharmacist practitioner, mental health at VA Northern California (x2 graduates)**
- **Rural health clinical pharmacist practitioner, pain management at VA Northern California**
- **Outpatient mental health clinical pharmacist practitioner at VA Northern California (x3 graduates)**
- **Substance Use Disorder clinical pharmacist practitioner at VA Northern California**



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<https://www.va.gov/northern-california-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/pharmacy-residency-program-information/>