

# PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

## VA Hudson Valley Health Care System

### Castle Point Campus

41 Castle Point Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

### Montrose Campus

2094 Albany Post Road  
Montrose, NY 10548

**ASHP accredited since 2008**



**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

**Residency Program Director (RPD):**  
Kimberly A. Allison, PharmD, BCACP  
E-mail: kimberly.allison2@va.gov

**Associate Chief, Clinical Pharmacy Operations:**  
Rita Bodine, PharmD  
E-mail: rita.bodine@va.gov

**Chief of Pharmacy:**  
Robert Lana, PharmD  
E-mail: robert.lana@va.gov

# About VA HVHCS (Visit our facility's website at: <http://www.hudsonvalley.va.gov/>)

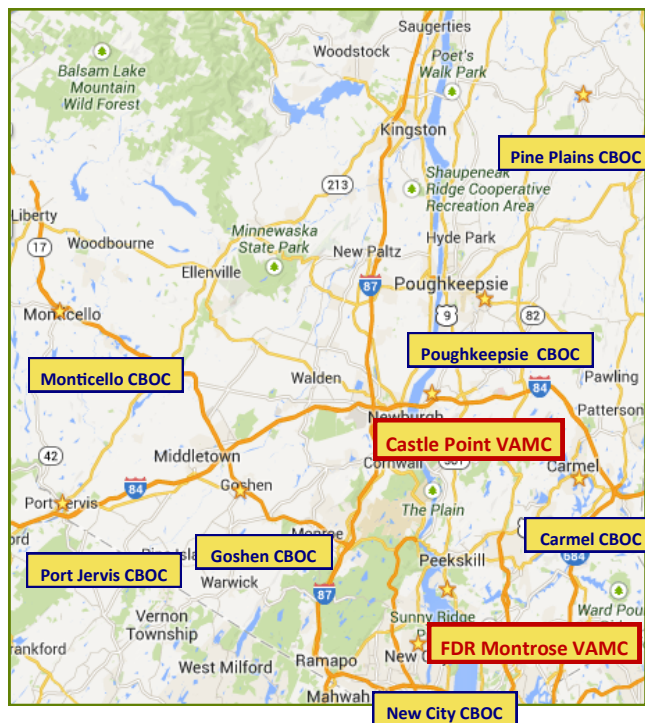
The VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS) was created in 1996 when the Castle Point VAMC and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt VA Hospital joined in the first locally initiated integration of its kind in the VA system. VA HVHCS serves an area along the Hudson River, north of New York City. Consisting of two main campuses, seven community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), and three mobile clinics the VA HVHCS is dedicated to providing a wide range of services, including medical, psychiatric, and extended care.

The FDR and Castle Point campuses are general medicine and surgery teaching hospitals. The VA HVHCS maintains residency programs in pharmacy, dentistry, optometry, and psychology. It also hosts students from a wide range of allied health professions.

**FDR/Montrose:** The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Hospital (FDR) opened in 1950; the facility is named for the 32nd president who was born in the Hudson Valley. It is located in northern Westchester County, 38 miles north of New York City. The FDR campus is the home of the acute inpatient psychiatric unit for the VA HVHCS. It maintains one of the largest community home care programs within the VA system. The FDR VA is home to three community living centers (CLC's) and a domiciliary program which aids patients with substance abuse, PTSD, and homelessness. FDR provides primary care, specialty care, mental health services, and whole health for the veterans.

## Castle Point:

The Castle Point campus, opened in 1924. It is located in Dutchess county on the banks of the Hudson River, 65 miles north of New York City. It home to the acute medical unit and a community living center (CLC). A wide range of medical services, intermediate medicine, rehabilitation medicine, same-day surgery, and primary care are available at this facility. Various specialty care services, outpatient mental health, whole health and outpatient infusion services are also available.



## CBOCs:

There are a number of community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in surrounding counties: Orange County (Goshen & Port Jervis), Sullivan County (Monticello), Rockland County (New City), Putnam County (Carmel), and Dutchess County (Poughkeepsie & Pine Plains). These clinics bring care closer to veterans in the communities in which they live and offer primary care, mental health services, and select specialist services. Of note, many of the specialists located at the two main campuses are also available through video tele-health technology.

## Other:

VA HVHCS is part of a larger network of care, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 2, the New York/New Jersey VA Health Care Network. VA HVHCS maintains a sharing relationship with Keller Army Hospital at West Point also provides Veterans with enhanced services.

Focusing on improving access and continuity of care, VA HVHCS provides innovative health care with an emphasis on performance improvement. A majority of our patients receive care through primary care clinics focusing on health promotion and disease prevention. We use the latest technology to provide high quality health care, including a computerized medical record, bar-coding for medication administration and an automated system for filling prescriptions. Patient and customer satisfaction is one of our top priorities. We continue to expand and improve health care programs and services to meet the needs of our patients.

**VA**



## **Program Overview**

The post-graduate year one (PGY1) Pharmacy Residency Program at the VA HVHCS is designed to allow development of the PGY1 pharmacy resident into a clinical practitioner, who will contribute to positive outcomes in the practice of pharmacy. The program is a comprehensive, multi-site, health care system-based, 12-month post-graduate residency. PGY1 pharmacy residents completing the program will accelerate their growth beyond entry-level professional competence. The residents build skills in patient-centered care, pharmacy operations, and healthcare leadership. In accordance with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) accreditation standards, the goals of the program are to train pharmacists to develop the skills necessary to ensure optimal delivery of drug therapy to a wide range of patients, function competently in partnership with other providers, investigate therapeutic problems in a scientific manner, become leaders in the medication use process, analyze and disseminate drug information to health care professionals and patients, and teach at an appropriate level.

The program offers comprehensive training with exposure to direct patient care in the outpatient and inpatient settings. Areas of focus in ambulatory care include anticoagulation, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and patient compliance. Other key practice areas include long-term care, home-based primary care, infectious disease, inpatient and outpatient staffing, and pharmacy administration. In addition, the program is designed to provide PGY1 pharmacy residents with effective communication skills, foster development of clinical pharmacy programs and services, and appreciate formulary management strategies. PGY1 pharmacy residents will develop professional maturity through demonstrating leadership and practice management skills, evaluating their own performance in the program, and educating patients and providers. The program integrates PGY1 pharmacy residents into the medication use process so that they develop a firm understanding of the clinical, distributive, and administrative aspects of the pharmacy profession.

## **Purpose**

### **ASHP-accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Purpose:**

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) 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 post-graduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training.

### **VA HVHCS PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Purpose:**

The VA HVHCS PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program aims to train pharmacists to provide pharmaceutical care, primarily to ambulatory care, geriatric, and long-term care patients. PGY1 pharmacy residents will be prepared to work independently and participate as integral members of a healthcare team. They will provide education to patients and healthcare professionals. In addition, PGY1 pharmacy residents will learn to perform self-monitoring and demonstrate leadership through contributions to performance improvement. PGY1 pharmacy residents will be encouraged to develop an approach to the profession that can lead to lifelong learning and career satisfaction.

## **Learning Experiences**

Structurally, the VA HVHCS PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program is conducted as a series of required 5-6 week rotations and longitudinal learning experiences carried out at both the Castle Point and FDR Montrose campuses. PGY1 pharmacy residents are expected to simultaneously prioritize and work on ongoing clinical, didactic, administrative, and project activities. Time is split between the Castle Point and FDR Montrose campuses in a roughly 50:50 distribution. Limited exposure to our CBOCs are offered on certain clinical experiences. In addition, there is the opportunity for 1-2 elective learning experiences, which are used to customize the residency training. Learning experience scheduling will be made by the Residency Program Director (RPD) with several factors in mind. Some learning experiences are scheduled to optimize the experiences available and based upon preceptor availability. In addition, strengths and weaknesses of PGY1 pharmacy residents will be utilized to create development plans and make adjustments to maximize opportunities for learning and advancement of individual interests/needs. PGY1 pharmacy residents work closely with the RPD and their primary preceptors to develop individual goals, objectives, learning activities, evaluations, and other changes to the residency program's overall plan that will assist them in expanding their skills for current and future pharmacy practice. Regular meetings with the RPD ensure that program requirements and the required ASHP competency areas, educational goals and objectives are being fulfilled.

## Required Learning Experiences:

- Orientation
- Clinical Pharmacy Management
- Project
- Pharmacy Education
- Staffing
- Anticoagulation
- Primary Care/PACT
- Infectious Disease
- Pharmacy Administration
- Long Term Care/ Geriatrics
- Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC)

## Elective Learning Experiences:

- Academic Detailing
- Chemotherapy/Sterile Compounding
- Pharmacy Informatics
- Pain Management
- Any of the required learning experiences can be repeated as an elective

## Select Learning Experience Overview

**Clinical Pharmacy Management:** Throughout the residency year, residents obtain experience and training in formulary management, knowledge of the medication safety and reporting systems, committee participation, and involvement with professional organizations and networking. Residents are expected to establish professional relationships, as well as enhance their time management, decision-making, and communication skills. Residents are assigned various activities, including review of non-formulary drug requests for appropriateness, safety, and cost effectiveness; monitoring medication utilization to identify areas for improvement; drug monograph development; management of national VA PBM cost-saving initiatives; working on formulary conversions; completing medication use evaluations; and management of the adverse drug reaction program. Residents will also be required to attend VA HVHCS Nutrition/ Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee meetings.

**Project:** Completion of a major project of the resident's choosing and of primary importance to VA HVHCS is required. Residents will work with a designated project preceptor to plan, carry out, and evaluate the results of this project. Projects may include a medication use evaluation, a continuous quality assurance/improvement project, development/improvement of a clinical services, retrospective chart reviews, or other ideas may be presented for discussion. Comprehensive project results are typically presented at the Eastern States Pharmacy Resident & Preceptors Conference or an ASHP/ACCP affiliate meeting. Submission of a final project manuscript is also required.

**Pharmacy Education:** Residents engage in various educational experiences throughout the year. This includes opportunities in staff education, patient education, as well as pharmacy student oversight and instruction. Residents are afforded with experiences in preparing and delivering both educational and training sessions of various types to health care colleagues supplemented by readings, projects, and discussions (e.g. journal club, case presentations, pharmacy in-services, newsletters). Patient education may occur in the clinical setting, informal didactic settings, or other venues such as health care fairs. Residents also serve as co-preceptors for pharmacy students from affiliated schools of pharmacy. Elective participation in a Teaching & Learning Certificate program is also offered.

**Pharmacy Staffing:** Residents are longitudinally exposed to both inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations, with graduating levels of pharmacist responsibility. A minimum of eight hours per month of pharmacy staffing is required, and generally no more than 16 hours per month. Residents are NOT required to staff nights, weekends, or holidays.

**Anticoagulation:** This pharmacy-run clinic is responsible for managing all Veterans receiving warfarin and other anticoagulants from VA HVHCS. Residents complete telephone follow-up to ensure safe and effective use of anticoagulants. They also initiate anticoagulation therapy and participate in transitions of care from inpatient to outpatient. Furthermore, residents coordinate warfarin interruption for procedures, using low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) if warranted. Residents are involved with patient education regarding warfarin, direct acting oral anticoagulants, and LMWH as needed.

**Primary Care/PACT:** Pharmacy-managed PACT clinics assist with the management of chronic disease states including diabetes, CHF, COPD and dyslipidemia. Under the supervision of their pharmacy preceptor, residents provide direct patient care while supporting the multi-disciplinary PACT teamlet. Residents conduct chart reviews, patient interviews, limited physical assessments, and develop appropriate pharmaceutical care plans including applicable laboratory testing, medication orders, scheduled follow-up, and documentation in a timely & efficient manner. Residents help optimize patient care through delivery of patient education, recommendation of lifestyle modifications, and pharmacologic interventions based upon the most recent VHA guidelines and current literature. Medication titration and adjustments are performed with timely follow-up to ensure patient safety with medication use. Residents will also serve as a drug information consultant for the PACT team, fulfill other CPS responsibilities, and provide comprehensive pharmaceutical care services to scheduled clinic patients.

**Infectious Disease:** Residents assist the ID team by providing patient education and medication monitoring, especially in the areas of HIV and hepatitis C. In doing so, residents are expected to review patient medication profiles for drug-drug and drug-disease interactions, evaluate and monitor pertinent laboratory data, offer patient specific recommendations to optimize treatment, and provide extensive patient education to enhance medication compliance and reduce adverse effects. Other learning activities include pharmacokinetic monitoring of antibiotics (e.g. vancomycin) drug levels for inpatients, daily antimicrobial stewardship, participation in the ID consultation service, surveillance of appropriate antimicrobial use, and provision of treatment guidelines for primary care providers regarding travel prophylaxis.

**Pharmacy Administration:** Residents obtain valuable leadership experience in managing the practice of pharmacy under the supervision of pharmacy administrators. Residents gain exposure to the decision-making processes at VA HVHCS through participation in various committees and meetings. They are tasked with policy updates, budget and resource management, as well as acting as pharmacy supervision for the day.

## Application Requirements:

- Letter of intent  
The letter of intent **must** include the answers to the following three questions:  
(1) Why do you want to do this residency?  
(2) What are your personal and professional strengths/areas for improvement?  
(3) What are your short-term or long-term career goals?
- Curriculum vitae
- Official college transcripts (College of Pharmacy)
- Three references (PhORCAS standardized reference form is sufficient)
- Proof of US citizenship (e.g. birth certificate, passport)

Application materials should be submitted through the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS). Additional information on PhORCAS may be found at:  
<http://www.ashp.org/phorcas>

All application materials must be received by **January 8<sup>th</sup>** in order to be considered for an interview.

## Program Strengths

- ◆ Multi-site exposure to a wide variety of clinical practice settings, with emphasis on primary/ambulatory care.
- ◆ Credentialed and experienced pharmacy preceptors.
- ◆ Flexible schedule and learning experiences tailored to the PGY1 pharmacy resident's area(s) of interest.
- ◆ Autonomy of clinical pharmacy specialists and exposure to clinical privileges.
- ◆ Experience co-precepting pharmacy students.
- ◆ Elective Teaching & Learning certificate program offered through the University of Connecticut.
- ◆ Participation in direct-patient care disease management clinics including: diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, anticoagulation, hepatitis C, etc.
- ◆ Two (2) PGY1 resident positions available, allowing for collaboration and support

## Benefits

- ◆ Competitive Stipend (estimated \$55,090)
- ◆ 13 paid annual leave days/13 paid sick days/11 paid federal holidays
- ◆ Health insurance
- ◆ Life insurance is available
- ◆ Funds *may be* available to attend national and regional pharmacy conferences

## Eligibility

Applicant must be a US citizen (a requirement to be employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs) and be a graduate or candidate for graduation from an ACPE accredited Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree program. Applicants with a pharmacy school GPA <2.5 or an incomplete application will not be considered for an interview. Applicant shall be licensed or eligible for licensure in any state. Applicant must be able to commit to the VA HVHCS PGY1 Pharmacy Resident Program for a period of no less than one year, and be a highly motivated individual who desires advanced education and training leading to enhanced level of professional practice in pharmacy.

## Formal Interview & Selection

Candidates will be contacted for a formal interview. A performance-based interview will be conducted. Interview process also includes a 10 minute presentation. Therapeutic topic/case discussions may also be included in the interview process. Residency selection is made through the ASHP Resident Matching Program (<http://www.natmatch.com>).



**National Matching Code: #135013**

**For more information regarding the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency, please send all correspondence to:**

Kimberly A. Allison, PharmD, BCACP  
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director  
VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS)  
Castle Point Campus; 41 Castle Point Road; Pharmacy Service (119)  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
Telephone: 845-831-2000 ext. 2352  
E-mail: [Kimberly.allison2@va.gov](mailto:Kimberly.allison2@va.gov)