

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program

ASHP Directory Information Code 41800

ASHP National Match Service Code 166813 [PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Official Website link](#)

Frequently Asked Questions and Program Information

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program develops versatile pharmacy practitioners able to excel in clinical pharmacy practice, deliver effective pharmacotherapy education, and understand pharmacy administrative concepts through active participation in a variety of rotation modules.

Learning experiences (rotation modules) available for residents include:

- **Ambulatory Care – Primary Care and Sub-Specialty Clinics**
- **Anticoagulation**
 - Outpatient Anticoagulation Clinic
 - Inpatient Anticoagulation Management
 - Centralized VA Anticoagulation Hub
- **Critical Care**
 - Medical Intensive Care
 - Surgical Intensive Care
- **Emergency Medicine**
- **Geriatrics**
 - Community Living Center – Inpatient Care
 - Home Based Primary Care
 - Hospice and Palliative Care
- **Hematology/Oncology**
- **Hospital Practice**
- **Infectious Diseases**
- **Informatics**
- **Internal Medicine**
- **Mental Health**
- **Nephrology**
- **Pharmacoeconomics**
- **Pharmacogenomics**
- **Pharmacovigilance (available through VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Office)**
- **Pharmacy Administration**
 - Formulary Management
 - Policy Management
 - Medication Safety
- **Inpatient Pharmacy Staffing**
- **Renal Transplant**
- **Teaching and Learning Certificate Program**
- **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 accessible by public transportation. Hines VA is affiliated with the Loyola University Medical Center and Stritch School of Medicine.

What is the purpose statement for the pharmacy residency?

The PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and is dedicated to the development of clinical pharmacists competent to perform medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions in a variety of scenarios that are well prepared for postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training or board certification after graduation.

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

Yes. We were given a full accreditation rating for 8 years by ASHP in 2022.

How many residents are being recruited?

Five residents for the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program.

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 v5.pdf \(va.gov\)](#). We encourage all candidates to review this, in detail.

Please be aware 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: 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 Residency Program Director.

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 attend several showcases to share our program with interested candidates. The Illinois Council of Health System Pharmacists (ICHSP) Residency Showcase hosted each year in September, the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting Residency Showcase hosted in December, and colleges of pharmacy open house events in the Chicago area. As part of our efforts to recruit top talent for the past several years, the Hines VA Pharmacy Residency Programs have hosted virtual open-house events to share details of our programs and allow candidates the opportunity to meet with residents and preceptors. Invitations for these are sent to colleges of pharmacy to share with their graduating class. For anyone interested that has not received a notice from a school, please contact the Residency Program Director (nicholas.super2@va.gov) for a personal invitation.

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

We use the ASHP matching process for PGY1 Pharmacy Residency selection. 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/>. Resident selection is done 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 exclusively.

Candidates will be asked a series of standard questions allowing them to communicate their unique pharmacy experiences, provide background to determine proper fit for the program, and to help interviewers better anticipate success in our program. The VA structure for any interview includes areas of skill such as personal mastery, interpersonal effectiveness, technical skills, customer service, flexibility and adaptability, organizational stewardship, and creative thinking. Candidates will have sufficient time to ask questions about the residency program and will visit with several current and past residents and preceptors.

There will be a brief presentation component to the interview. More detailed 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 1st 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 insurance options are available (e.g., medical, life)
- 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 absences for the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (IChP) Annual Fall Meeting, ASHP Midyear Meeting, and for major project presentation in the spring
- Medical Library with electronic journal access
- Free 24-hour access to employee gym
- Opportunities to attend multi-disciplinary presentations which can include continuing education credits

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 receipt of 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 on 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 VA Pharmacy Residency Program Office (PRPO). The resident may incur additional expense for medical benefits beyond 366 days.

How long are rotations?

Rotations are 5 weeks in length, except for module 5 (mid-November – late December) which is 6 weeks long to allow time away for the holidays and ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

What rotations are required?

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

What elective rotations are available?

- Academic Training
- 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
- Pharmacogenomics
- Pharmacovigilance
- Renal Transplant
- Transitions of Care/Spinal Cord Injury

How many elective rotations can I take?

Three (3) elective rotations are available over the course of the year.

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

All required 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) 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.

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 practice areas not available at Hines), but there are no rotations offered outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

What projects are required during the residency?

- Present a journal club presentation to pharmacy staff
- Create and present an ACPE accredited CE Seminar
- Complete a medication use evaluation (MUE)
- Develop/update a pharmacy protocol or policy
- Complete a major pharmacy project (also known as a research 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
- Complete a residency teaching certificate program
- Staff the Inpatient Pharmacy on weekends - Longitudinal during 1st half of residency year. Dual appointment (paid employee) work as an inpatient clinical pharmacist expected during 2nd half of the year. See details below.

What areas of major pharmacy projects/research have recent residents completed?

- Anticoagulation
- Ambulatory Care/Primary Care
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Chronic Pain Management
- Deprescribing
- Home Based Primary Care and Geriatrics
- Infectious Diseases

- Managing Shortages/Recalls/Therapeutic Conversions
- Osteoporosis
- Patient distress with chronic disease states
- Post-transplant management
- Vaccination Rates and Barriers

What types of major pharmacy projects have recent residents completed?

2022-2023 Class

- Alisia Chen – The impact of pharmacist-driven care in post-transplant hyperglycemia in comparison to usual care in kidney transplant recipients in a Veteran’s Affairs Transplant Center
- Angela Dylewski – Evaluation of abrupt discontinuation of inhaled corticosteroids in COPD
- Ana Pranjic – Evaluating the impact of pharmacist-led drug regimen reviews in long-term care (LTC) Veterans
- Sarah Salama – Assessing the impact of clinical pharmacist interventions with provider compliance on osteoporosis screening and treatment in Veterans on chronic glucocorticoid therapy
- Janki Vyas – Clinical impact of implementation of the diabetes distress score tool on type 2 diabetes management in VA outpatient clinics

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 (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

What other activities may the resident be involved in?

- Contribute to article(s) for the pharmacy newsletter sent out to hospital staff
- Participate in 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 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 orientation in July. 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 a 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, and completion is a requirement for residents. Certification is provided to Hines Pharmacy Residents through the University of Illinois Chicago program.

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
- PGY-1 & PGY-2 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 (PBM)
 - Program Managers
 - Specialty Medication Managers
- FDA- Safety Evaluator
- FDA- Pharmacometrics Reviewer
- Informatics

What are the profiles of *recent* Hines VA residency graduates? (Bold indicates currently employed at Hines VA)

- **Class of 2023:**

Name	PharmD Education	Current Position
Alisia Chen	Northeastern University	PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Resident, Michigan Medicine: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Angela Dylewski	Midwestern University	PGY2 Geriatrics Resident, Durham VA Medical Center, Durham, NC

Ana Pranjic	Midwestern University	PGY2 Infectious Diseases Resident, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines IL
Sara Salama	Midwestern University	PGY2 Ambulatory Care Resident, Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL
Janki Vyas	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville	Clinical Pharmacist- Inpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL

- **Class of 2022:**

Name	PharmD Education	Current Position
Josiah Baker	University of Illinois at Chicago	Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
Erin Feeley	University of Kentucky	Clinical Pharmacy Specialist-Ambulatory Care, ascension Healthcare, Chicago, IL
Leslie Johnson	Chicago State University	Clinical Staff Pharmacist, Advocate Chris Medical Center, Oak Lawn, IL
Tom Schultz	Roosevelt University	Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Pain Management, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL

- **Class of 2021:**

Name	PharmD Education	Current Position
Josmi Joseph	Drake University	Clinical Assistant Professor, Roosevelt University, Schaumburg, IL Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Ambulatory Care, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
Ramsha Nisar	Midwestern University	Clinical Pharmacist – Hybrid (Outpatient/Anticoagulation), Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
Reda Safi	University of Nebraska	Clinical Pharmacist, University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, IL

Emily Scott	Midwestern University	Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Internal Medicine, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
Dana Shepherd	University of California, San Francisco	Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Ambulatory Care, VA Southern Oregon Healthcare System, White City, OR

- **Class of 2020:**

Name	PharmD Education	Current Position
Anitta Aickareth	Florida A&M University	Clinical Pharmacist- Inpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
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
Jimmy Nguyen	Roosevelt University	Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Infectious Diseases, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL

- **Class of 2019:**

Name	PharmD Education	Current Position
Peter Carrizales	University of Illinois at Chicago	Inpatient Procurement Pharmacy Supervisor, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
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

For more information about the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency program please contact:

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PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Director

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