



## **New York Harbor Healthcare System Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

**423 East 23rd Street, NY, NY 10010  
(212) 686-7500**

**800 Poly Place, Brooklyn, NY 11209  
(718) 836-6600**

**<https://www.nyharbor.va.gov/>**

### **Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Fellowship Overview**

Program description NY Harbor Healthcare System Veterans Affairs Hospital offers a 12-month postgraduate Physician Assistant Fellowship in Emergency Medicine. The program trains highly qualified graduate physician assistants to become skilled, compassionate, and efficient hospital-based PA. The curriculum contains diverse didactic instruction and direct patient care clinical experience, embedded in the foundation of the VA hospital: excellence in patient care, education, and research. The program provides the graduate PA with the training needed to provide the highest quality of care to Emergency Department patients. The fellowship curriculum is designed in a diverse format that accommodates all learner types. Based on the physician "Core Competencies" from SEMPA, the PA fellow will complete various medical specialty rotations that are two to four weeks in duration. The curriculum includes formal didactic instruction, journal club and case review, and project-based learning through hands-on experience. The 12-month residency (September 2023-2024) provides approximately 500 didactic and 2000 clinical hours of training in emergency medicine.

Facilities NY Harbor Healthcare System has two VA hospital campuses, in Manhattan & Brooklyn. Both facilities contain Emergency departments, full-service laboratory & pharmacies. The physician assistant fellowship program will combine rigorous didactics with clinical experiences preparing graduates for a successful career in Emergency Medicine at NY Harbor Healthcare System and our affiliated medical centers. Physician assistants in the Emergency Fellowship Program will work with and under the supervision of emergency medicine, internal medicine, surgical and critical care physician assistants and physicians.

### **Available Specialty Rotations**

MICU  
SICU  
Anesthesia  
Cardiology  
Psychiatry  
Woman's Health  
Ultrasound  
Trauma Surgery  
Community ED  
Orthopedics  
Podiatry  
Maxillofacial/Dental

## Program goals

The Physician Assistant Fellowship in Emergency Medicine at the VA will enable fellows to:

- Acquire a comprehensive and multifaceted knowledge base of the common disease processes for which patients are hospitalized, understanding various presenting clinical presentations and disease prognosis.
- Develop a diverse differential diagnosis and corresponding diagnostic & treatment plan formulated by the patient's presenting symptoms along with evidence-based and cost-effective medical care.
- Identify logistical and methodical measures within the institution to maintain the utmost quality of patient care while improving patient outcomes, such as length of stay in the hospital and patient safety.
- Manage patients effectively throughout the whole ER stay, while remaining mindful of the patient's emotional and physical needs.
- Refine verbal skills to articulate effective communication with colleagues, physicians, patients, and ancillary staff to ultimately become a key part of the ED health care delivery team.
- Develop practice management skills, including strategies in training physician assistant students.

## Curriculum

The VA Physician Assistant Emergency Medicine Residency Program has a strong emphasis on both clinical and didactic training providing physician assistants with further education, specialized clinical and professional experience to prepare them for a career in emergency medicine as competent, highly functional members of the emergency medicine team. As part of the clinical curriculum, fellows will be involved in the evaluation and management of a diverse emergency medicine veteran population handling cases involving:

- Acute care
- Resuscitation
- Critical care
- Urgent clinical care
- Clinical observation unit
- Virtual Healthcare Follow-up

For most of the fellowship, the learning schedule includes 10-hour days, five days a week, including weekends. Hours while on subspecialty rotations vary depending on the requirements and needs of the service.

Other educational weekly opportunities for EM PA fellows include:

- Weekly didactic EMPA sessions
- Weekly Wednesday Conference
- Bedside Ultrasound Training / POCUS verification
- SIM Lab
- Hands-on procedural training
- Asynchronous learning with HIPPO EM
- Administrative team shadowing

As fellows, physician assistants complete several activities:

- Rotate through the hospital Emergency Departments, intensive care units and medicine wards. Other medical and surgical subspecialties will be used to augment the fellows' training.
- Monitor, diagnose, and treat patients in the Emergency Department.
- Receive hands-on experience to prepare for supervised bedside interventions.
- Receive procedural training within rotations.
- Rapid Response Conference
- Anesthesia rotation with hands-on supervised endotracheal intubation
- Trauma Surgery Rotation will be held at our hospital affiliate NYU Langone-Long Island Winthrop.
- Community Emergency Medicine Rotation will be held at our hospital affiliate Downstate Medical Center/

This intensive training program has been designed to provide a comprehensive understanding, diagnosis and treatment of disease and traumatic injuries. Topics include all aspects of the practice of emergency medicine. This broad range of EM experience is enhanced with rotations in critical care, woman's health, toxicology, orthopedics, the surgical intensive care unit and many more. During clinical rotations, fellows will be trained to monitor, diagnose, and provide excellent treatment for a variety of patients. In addition to bedside clinical experience, fellows will gain hands-on training that prepares them for providing great bedside patient care through simulation activities and ultrasound courses.

### Admissions Criteria

- Graduated from a PA Program approved by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) prior to matriculation into the program
- Official copy of NCCPA scores (must be certified or eligible to be certified)
- National Certification by the NCCPA (new graduates may receive acceptance into the program, pending successful completion of the PANCE)
- Accepted residents must take and pass their PANCE exam prior to residency start date
- Eligibility for NY State and DEA licensure
- US citizenship
- Official sealed transcripts from Colleges/Universities and the PA Program
- Three professional letters of recommendation
- Two personal references
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Personal statement
- Completion and submission of all application materials by Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Those selected must complete a personal interview before final acceptance into the fellowship program.
- We'll send you an email notification when we receive your completed application packet.

Return application via email to:

Vallerie Hirsch, MSPAS, PA-C  
Emergency Department

# NEW YORK HARBOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT FELLOWSHIP

[Vallerie.Hirsch@va.gov](mailto:Vallerie.Hirsch@va.gov)

## Application timeline

- December 2023 – Applications are accepted
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Applications are due
- March 2024 – Competitive applicants will be invited for candidate interviews
- April 2024 – Candidate selection
- Early September 2024 – Program Start date
- Program admission is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of an employee health screening and the VA Hospital credentialing process.
- Candidates may confirm their place by submitting the PA Residency Employment Agreement and begin onboarding process through Human Resources department in Spring 2024.

## VA Benefits

- No tuition or application fee
- Generous stipend (\$92,071 for 2024-2025 residency training one-year post-graduate program)
- 13 days paid vacation
- 13 days paid sick leave
- 10 paid holidays
- Travel/Federal Commuter benefits
- Professional liability insurance
- Medical Insurance offered with a family option plan
- Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act Coverage
- Time in residency applies to Federal longevity
- Preferential Hiring within VA upon completion
- The Department of Veterans Affairs is an equal opportunity employer
- Medical Coats & Scrubs provided
- Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP) may be available upon employment, depending on site, and subject to funding
- Access to online medical literature and well-prepared to take the Emergency Medicine CAQ Exam.
- Upon achievement of the successfully completing postgraduate training in the field of Emergency Medicine from the Veterans Hospital Administration and the PA fellow upholding the VA's core values of teamwork, honest communication, and integrity, a certification will be awarded.

Thank you for your interest in the NY Harbor VA PA Emergency Medicine Fellowship.  
If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ishmeal Bradley, MD, MPH  
Interim Program Medical Director  
[Ishmeal.Bradley@va.gov](mailto:Ishmeal.Bradley@va.gov)

Vallerie Hirsch, MSPAS, PA-C  
Residency Training Director  
[Vallerie.Hirsch@va.gov](mailto:Vallerie.Hirsch@va.gov)