

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Inter-professional Fellowship Program in Patient Safety
July 2024 – July 2025

The purpose of the patient safety fellowship is to provide post-residency trained physicians and post-doctoral or post-masters degree trained professionals in-depth education in patient safety practice and leadership. The VA National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) offers this one-year fellowship in patient safety at six different VA training sites. VA patient safety fellows focus on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to lead administrative patient safety efforts within a healthcare system.

The patient safety fellowship consists of active participation in patient safety quality improvement and research projects as well as an intensive self-directed learning. At the start of the fellowship, fellows work with the Co-Directors to establish individualized objectives and an expected timetable for accomplishment of these objectives. Expectations for the patient safety fellows include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitating and eventually leading patient safety quality improvement projects in a VHA facility
- Participating in Root Cause Analyses and Healthcare Failure Mode and Effect Analyses
- Attending and contributing to facility leadership committees
- Serving as a resource to VA employees in matters of patient safety
- Presenting their patient safety projects at a regional or national conference
- Submitting their project for publication in a national journal

VA Pittsburgh has a specific concentration in healthcare human factors. VA Pittsburgh is the site of the Center for Medical Product End-User Testing (CMPET), which is focused on applying human factors methodology to inform the purchase, implementation, and design of safe medical products. Fellows in Pittsburgh have the unique opportunity to contribute to quality improvement projects that will facilitate the safest use of medical products in the delivery of care to Veterans across the VA. CMPET leverages healthcare simulation environments when evaluating the impact of medical product design on human performance.

Fellows have the opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary team of VA staff on insulin pump safety research. VA Pittsburgh has ongoing funded research projects studying insulin pump-associated adverse events and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on patients who use insulin pumps. Current studies involve both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies; fellows will have the opportunity to develop skills in data collection, analyses, and manuscript preparation as well as gain knowledge of diabetes technology and best practices for remote management of patients on insulin pumps. Candidates with interest and relevant experience in this area should highlight it in their cover letters.

The patient safety fellowship is open to U.S. Citizens with a range of backgrounds. VA Pittsburgh accepts applicants from a variety of backgrounds who are interested in patient safety. Previous fellows have had degrees in medicine, nursing, psychology, engineering, pharmacy, and dentistry.

To apply, send a cover letter and CV to the Fellowship Co-Directors to be considered for the July 2024 start date:

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