



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Roseburg VA Medical Center
913 Garden Valley Blvd
Roseburg, Oregon 97471
Contact Us – VHAROS-PharmResidency@va.gov

Frequently Asked Questions - Roseburg VA PGY-1 Pharmacy Program

Q: What does a typical day look like for a PGY-1 resident?

A: Our days are mostly divided into rotations in the mornings, and longitudinal clinics in the afternoon. Our longitudinal clinic time is dedicated to tobacco cessation, anticoagulation, and primary care clinics.

Q: What core rotations does your site offer?

A: We have 3 major core rotations, each of which are 8 weeks long. These are primary care, inpatient mental health, and long-term care/transitional care unit. Inpatient operations, pharmacy administration, joint commission review, and outpatient staffing are also required rotations and are either 2 or 4 weeks long.

Q: What elective rotations does your site offer?

A: We offer elective rotations in pain management, specialty pharmacy, outpatient substance use disorder, adult primary care, outpatient mental health, primary care mental health integration (PCMHI), and informatics. As well as the option to repeat any core rotation as an elective.

Q: What is your work-life balance like? / How many hours do you typically work?

A: This certainly varies from resident to resident. Our program is set up in such a way that it allows for a lot of flexibility. On average, residents spend around 40-50 hours per week on site.

Q: What is it like to live in Roseburg?

A: Roseburg is perfectly located for anyone who has a passion for the outdoors! There are countless hiking trails around the area. The beautiful Oregon Coast and the world-famous Crater Lake national park are both just a short drive away.

Q: What made you choose this PGY-1 program over other programs?

A: All 3 of us were drawn to the program because it had a strong emphasis in ambulatory care. We also have a significant amount of autonomy with respect to managing our own clinics, which we all felt was a benefit to this program that is not shared by many others.

Q: What type of qualities are you looking for in a resident?

A: Some good qualities for any resident to have include: excellent work ethic, communication skills, ability to multitask, professionalism, and a solid clinical background. This residency program focuses particularly on outpatient ambulatory care – it is also important for the resident to have good interpersonal skills as they will spend a significant amount of time providing direct patient care and one-on-one appointments with veterans.

Q: What are the preceptors like at your program?

A: The preceptors at the Roseburg VA work diligently to ensure that the residents are progressing and furthering their clinical skills and knowledge. They are experts in a wide variety of clinical pharmacy fields such as: Ambulatory Care, Psychiatric Pharmacy, Infectious Diseases, Pain and Palliative Care, and Long-Term Care. Several preceptors often serve as mentors for projects and presentations that the residents will work on throughout the residency year. For longitudinal rotations, preceptors may regularly alternate throughout the year so residents may gain a wide variety of perspectives from several experienced providers. Our preceptors strive to be accessible to the resident and serve as both mentors and role models in providing excellent patient care.

Q: What types of projects are you working on for this year?

A: Some projects that we are working on this year are all quality improvement projects. Drs. Do and Liu are working on medication deprescribing in patients with hyperpolypharmacy to help reduce incidence of drug interactions and to assess patients' medication regimens for safety and efficacy. Dr. Walker is working with patients with alcohol use disorder to prescribe pharmacotherapy or refer them to appropriate care to improve patient safety. The aim of all of our projects is to help improve safe and effective use of medications at the Roseburg VA.

Frequently Asked Questions – Roseburg VA PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Program

Q: What does a typical day look like for a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care resident?

A: As an ambulatory care PGY-2 resident, you function as your team's clinical pharmacy specialist. The majority of your time will be spent seeing patients either via face to face or virtual appointments. You will also be involved in various longitudinal experiences including pain management team, and primary care mental health integration.

Q: What types of projects are you working on for this year?

A: Projects will always be geared towards the resident's specific interests. This year, I am working on expanding primary care mental health (PCMH) medication prescribing to the rural coastal clinics within the Roseburg VA Health Care System.

Q: How do I apply for the PGY-2 ambulatory care program?

A: Interested applicants will need to apply via the ASHP match system utilizing PhORCAS. The PGY-2 ambulatory care residency does offer early commitment to current Roseburg VA PGY-1 residents, so for that reason applicants should also contact Dr. Jessica Johnson at Jessica.Johnson14@va.gov or current PGY-2 resident Ayman Alholail at Ayman.Alholail@va.gov for questions or clarifications.

Q: What does it mean to early commit to the program?

A: Residents who graduate from the Roseburg VA PGY-1 program have the option to apply for a PGY-2 within the same health system outside of the match system. This applies to both the Eugene Ambulatory Care PGY-2 as well as the Roseburg Pain and Palliative Care PGY-2 programs. The early commit application and selection process takes place prior to ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

Q: What are the requirements to apply to this program?

A: Applicants interested in applying for the PGY-2 ambulatory care program must be in good standing with their current PGY-1 program. Applicants should also be United States citizens. Additionally, applicants will need to provide 3 recommendation letters, official school transcripts, and a personalized letter of intent.

Frequently Asked Questions – Roseburg VA PGY-2 Pain and Palliative Care Program

Q: What does a typical day look like for a PGY-2 Pain and Palliative Care resident?

A: A typical day varies based on what clinic I am in due to this residency's program longitudinal model vs block model when it comes to rotations. Currently the clinics that I'm involved in are outpatient pain management, population health (focusing on naloxone distribution, urine drug screens, and prescription drug monitoring program), mental health/primary care, inpatient hospice, palliative care in the CLC (focusing on patients with dementia), and multidisciplinary pain management team. My patient interactions are most often telemedicine, over the phone or by video, so I stay in my office most of the day. I also usually get at least 4 hours per week of project time.

Q: What types of projects are you working on for this year?

A: This year my big longitudinal project is focused on appropriate prescribing of psychotropics (e.g. benzodiazepines and antipsychotics) in geriatric patients with dementia to help manage behaviors related to dementia. I am also helping to support a national MUE looking at the risk of and suicide and overdose from an opioid taper. Every month I'm involved in creating a report card for individual providers about how they can improve the use of risk mitigation strategies when prescribing opioids. Later this year, I hope to help implement PHASER, which is a pharmacogenomic screening test at the VA, at my facility.

Q: How do I apply for the PGY-2 pain and palliative care program?

A: Interested applicants will need to apply via the ASHP match system utilizing PhORCAS. The PGY-2 pain and palliative care residency does offer early commitment to current Roseburg VA PGY-1 residents, so for that reason applicants should also contact Dr. Jacquelyn Lansing at Jacquelyn.Lansing@va.gov or current PGY-2 resident Caprisse Honsbruch at Caprisse.Honsbruch@va.gov for questions or clarifications.

Q: What are the requirements to apply to this program?

A: Applicants interested in applying for the PGY-2 pain and palliative care program must be in good standing with their current PGY-1 program. Applicants should also be United States citizens. Additionally, applicants will need to provide 3 recommendation letters, official school transcripts, and a personalized letter of intent.