

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency

http://www.hines.va.gov/about/pharm_residency.asp **Currently Under Maintenance**

[ASHP Directory Info. Program Code: 41800](#)

[NMS Code: 166813](#)

Frequently Asked Questions and Program Information

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital residency program develops the resident into a versatile practitioner able to excel in pharmacy practice, pharmacotherapy education, and administrative practice through active participation in a variety of settings. Learning experiences available to residents include:

- **Ambulatory Care**
- **Anticoagulation**
 - Outpatient Clinic
 - Home Based Primary Care
 - Inpatient Management
- **Critical Care**
 - Medical Intensive Care
 - Surgical Intensive Care
 - Nutrition Support
- **Geriatrics**
 - Community Living Center (Long Term Care)
 - Home Based Primary Care
 - Hospice
- **Infectious Diseases**
- **Internal Medicine**
- **Mental Health (Psychiatry)**
- **Other**
 - Pharmacy Residency Recruitment
 - Pharmacy Student Co-precepting
- **Pharmacy Practice Management**
 - Formulary Management
 - Policy Management
 - Safety Management
- **Pharmacy Staffing**
- **Specialty Areas**
 - Emergency Medicine
 - Nephrology
 - Oncology
 - Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)
 - Transplant
 - Women's Health
- **Teaching and Learning Certificate**
- **Transitions of Care/Hospital Practice**

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 also accessible by public transportation. Hines VA is affiliated with the Loyola University Medical Center and Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois, and has many affiliated practitioners.

What is the purpose statement for the pharmacy residency?

PGY-1 Program Purpose: PGY-1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) 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 postgraduate year two (PGY-2) pharmacy residency training.

Is the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program ASHP accredited?

Yes

How many residents are being recruited?

Five

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 September 30th
- Hines remain and Equal Opportunity Employer

How does an interested residency candidate apply for the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program?

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/>.

Does the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency interview the interested candidate?

Yes. Selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.

During the interview candidates can anticipate being asked questions that will assess their verbal skills and determine their thoughts and views on such areas as personal mastery, interpersonal effectiveness, technical skills, customer service, flexibility and adaptability, organizational stewardship, and creative thinking. Candidates will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the residency program and meet several residents and preceptors.

Does the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program participate in the “Match”?

Yes, the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Pharmacy Residency Program has always participated in the “Match.” Since 2002, pharmacy residency programs have been offered to applicants through the ASHP Resident Matching Program (the “Match”).

How do residency applicants register for the “Match”?

You must register for the “Match” using the shared PhORCAS/Match registration portal. National Matching Services and PhORCAS have implemented this shared portal in order to provide a single access point for applicants to register for the “Match” and send applications using PhORCAS.

How is the residency candidate notified if they “Match” with the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital PGY-1 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 to sign and return to the residency program director.

What is the starting date and length of the residency program?

The residency program starts in the Federal pay period prior to July 1st (VA pay period 13, last portion of June). It is one year in length.

Is the starting date flexible?

Unfortunately, a flexible starting date is not feasible because of funding constraints, an aggressive orientation schedule, and certain residency requirements such as presenting a completed major project at a conference (such as the Great Lakes Pharmacy Residency Conference or Illinois Pharmacy Resident Conference) venue in the spring.

What is the salary offered for residents?

As of June 2021, the annual salary is \$46,292 per year for PGY-1 residents.

What benefits are offered?

- A variety of insurance options are available (e.g., medical, life)
- 10 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 absence 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

Are there any licensing requirements?

Residents are highly encouraged to be licensed prior to the residency year starting, to ensure the most robust experience. However, residents must be licensed by September 30th. As a Federal Facility, residents may be licensed in any state, territory, or the District of Columbia of the United States. It is not necessary to be licensed in Illinois.

What rotations are required?

- Ambulatory Care
- Anticoagulation
- Formulary Management
- Geriatrics
- Hospital Pharmacy Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Administration (longitudinal)

What elective rotations are available?

- Critical Care & Nutrition Support
- Emergency Medicine
- Hospice & Palliative Care
- Infectious Diseases
- Medication Safety
- Mental Health (Psychiatry)
- Nephrology
- Oncology
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Specialty Ambulatory Care (e.g., Geriatrics, Hepatitis C, Nephrology, Women's Health)
- Specialty Internal Medicine
- Transplant

How many elective rotations can I take?

Three (3) elective rotations.

How long are the rotations?

Required rotations are 6 weeks long. Elective rotations are 4 weeks long.

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

All clinical 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) all 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 rotations 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 clinical staff
- Create and present an ACPE CE Seminar
- Complete a medication use evaluation (MUE)
- Develop/update a pharmacy protocol or policy
- Complete a major pharmacy project (including presentation at a pharmacy resident conference and completion a manuscript suitable for publication)

What types of major pharmacy projects have recent residents completed?

- Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in Hospitalized Veterans With COVID-19 (2020)
- Changes in Diabetes Control With the Use of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (2020)
- Tolerability of SGLT2 Inhibitors in the VA Population (2020)
- Impact of National Metformin Sustained-Acting Recall on Veteran Outcomes (2020)
- Analysis of Risk Factors for Inappropriate Enteral Medication Usage in an Outpatient Veteran Population (2020)
- Evaluation of Patient Factors and Their Impact on Time in Therapeutic Range on Warfarin Therapy in a VA Medical Center (2019)
- Assessment of an Automated Tool Designed to Identify Medication Changes for Veterans in Home-Based Primary Care Between Two Points in Time (2019)
- De-prescribing Aspirin for Primary Prophylaxis in the Elderly, With a Focus on Those at Highest Risk of Bleeding (2019)
- Evaluating the Impact of a Multi-Step Intervention on Antimicrobial Utilization and Clinical Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Prostate Needle Biopsy at a VA Facility (2019)
- Determining Appropriateness of Utilizing Serum Creatinine for Vancomycin Dosing in Spinal Cord Injury Veterans (2019)
- Concordance of Antibiotic Prescribing With the Proposed American Dental Association Acute Oral Infection Guidelines Within Veterans Affairs (VA) Dentistry (2018)

- Evaluating the Effects of a “Urinalysis to Reflex Culture” Process Change at a Veteran Affairs (VA) Hospital (2018)
- Identify Factors Influencing Completion Rate of the Two-Dose Recombinant Zoster Vaccine Series (2018)
- Pharmacist Impact in a Veterans Affairs Ambulatory Clinic (2018)
- Impact of Implementing Delirium Precautions on Pharmacologic and Non-pharmacologic Interventions in a Veteran Inpatient Hospice Population (2018)
- Evaluating the Prescribing Influence of an Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Treatment Order Set at a Veterans Affairs Hospital (2017)
- Evaluation of Antibiotic Utilization on Patient Outcomes Post Sepsis Protocol Update at a Veterans Affairs Facility (2017)
- Evaluating the Effects of a “Urinalysis to Reflex Culture” Process Change in the ED Setting at a Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital (2017)
- Evaluating Secondary Fracture Prevention at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital (2017)
- Effect of Inpatient Anticoagulation Duration on Mortality in Patients With Pulmonary Embolism (2016)
- Evaluation of Antibiotic Prescribing for Acute Bronchitis in Outpatient Settings at a VA Hospital (2016)
- Evaluation of Perioperative Anticoagulation Bridging Practice in Veterans on Warfarin Therapy at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital (2016)
- Evaluating the Impact of Benzodiazepine Quality Improvement Initiatives at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital (2016)
- Role of Proton Pump Inhibitors and Recurrent Clostridium Difficile Infection (2016)
- National Evaluation of Antibiotic Prescribing by Dentists in the Veterans Affairs (VA) Health System (2016)
- Evaluation of GLP-1 Agonists on A1c Lowering at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital (2016)
- Evaluation of Chronic Pain Medication Use Before and After Acupuncture (2016)

What other activities may the resident be involved in?

- Contribute to article(s) for the pharmacy newsletter sent out to Hospital staff
- Become familiar with 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 the 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. Starting for the 2021-2022 class, the opportunity began for 'dual appointment' where a resident would work and be compensated as a licensed pharmacist in lieu of staffing as a pharmacy resident. This amounts to 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 (so 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. The Department of Veterans Affairs is recognized as one of the most progressive agencies in health care regarding integrating technology into practice.

Does the program have a teaching certificate?

Yes, this is an optional offering provided through one of the local colleges of pharmacy to Hines Pharmacy Residents.

What settings are former Hines VA residency graduates working in now?

- Clinical Pharmacy Specialists
 - Ambulatory Care
 - Anticoagulation
 - 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
- PBM
 - Program Managers
 - Specialty Medication Managers
- FDA- Safety Evaluator
- FDA- Pharmacometrics Reviewer
- Informatics

What settings are *recent* Hines VA residency graduates working in now?

- Class of 2021:
 - Josmi Joseph, PharmD, PGY-2 Resident, Ambulatory Care, James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, North Chicago, IL
 - Ramsha Nisar, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist- Outpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Reda Safi, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, IL
 - Emily Scott, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacist- Inpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Dana Shepherd, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care, VA Southern Oregon Healthcare System, White City, OR
- Class of 2020:
 - Anitta Aickareth, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Drew Bailey, PharmD, Staff Pharmacist, Osco Drug,
 - Olga (Ola) Bulakh, PharmD, BCPS Clinical Pharmacist, Comprehensive Cancer Care Network, Zion, IL
 - Kathryn Gray, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist- Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, CVS Caremark, Chicago, IL
 - Jimmy Nguyen, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacist- Inpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
- Class of 2019:
 - Peter Carrizales, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacist, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Courtney Hill, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacist- Patient Care, Genoa Healthcare, Chicago, IL
 - Megan Mitchell, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care, Advocate Dreyer, Aurora, IL
 - Joyce Wang, PharmD, Pharmacist

- Class of 2018:
 - Tyler Clemons, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacist, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL
 - Georgiana Ismail, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist- Outpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Inela Masic, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist- Outpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Jason Mei, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist- Outpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
- Class of 2017:
 - Oluwabumni Lawal, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Dallas, TX
 - Melissa Dinh, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Heather Harnvanich, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, Barrington, IL
 - Alyssa Kmet, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Coordinator, Rush Oak Park Hospital, Oak Park, IL
 - Jiajun Liu, PharmD, Pharmacometrics Reviewer, Food & Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD
 - Susan Sam, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacist, AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Glen Oaks, Glendale Heights, IL
 - Megan Wesling, BCPS, BCACP, Assistant Professor of Pharmacotherapy- UNT System College of Pharmacy/Clinical Pharmacist- UNT Health Pavilion, Fort Worth, TX
- Class of 2016:
 - Takreem Basheeruddin, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, AMITA Health (Alexian Brothers Medical Center), Elk Grove Village, IL
 - Julie Cabrera, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation and Ambulatory Care, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Emily Ellsworth, PharmD, BCGP, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Home Based Primary Care, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Heather Cooper, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacist General Medicine and Surgical Care, Aurora St. Luke's Hospital, Milwaukee, WI
 - Kaitlyn Acosta, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager, Emergency Department, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Emily Kim, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care, Kaiser Permanente, Honolulu, HI
 - Elizabeth Pieta, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist- Outpatient, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
 - Alexandra Shubat, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL

For more information about the pharmacy residency please contact:

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