



PGY-1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY

Anchorage, Alaska

Frequently Asked Questions

Providence is calling.

What is special about your program?

Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC) is the largest (394 beds), most advanced medical facility in the state serving patients statewide. It has Level II Trauma and Primary Stroke Center Certifications, extensive oncology services and the only dedicated Children's Hospital and level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Alaska. These result in a diverse patient population and an opportunity to help provide care to patients presenting with a wide array of medical conditions, including cardiac surgery.

PAMC is a not-for-profit community hospital and is not associated directly with any college or university; however it does support a Family Practice Medical Residency program. As a PGY1 pharmacy resident, you will round with the inpatient medical resident team, making medication recommendations and adjusting therapy. The attendings and residents look forward to the time of the year the pharmacy resident rotates with them. You also round with an interdisciplinary team on pediatrics, infectious disease, adult critical care and coronary care, and in NICU if that is chosen as an elective. Our electronic medical record and physician order entry make our clinical work very efficient. We have all patient information at our fingertips whether in patient care areas or in the central pharmacy.

The scenic beauty of Alaska is second to none. Incredible mountain views and frequent wildlife sighting are just a few of the perks of living in Anchorage. There are numerous opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts in or within a short drive of the nation's northernmost major city. The most popular activities include hiking, fishing, camping, and downhill skiing. There are over two hundred miles of trails in Anchorage to bike or cross country ski. Anchorage has ample cultural events, including a symphony, theater productions, multiple museums, and art galleries. There are a wide variety of excellent locally owned restaurants and a farmer's market during the summer months.

What are the strengths of your program?

Our biggest strength is the people we work with. The pharmacy department is highly respected and appreciated by other disciplines, including nursing and physicians. Clinical pharmacists have dedicated time and workspace on all of the inpatient units. They are well recognized, sought out by staff, and are integrated into unit activities. Preceptors are excellent clinicians and have a passion for teaching.

The residency director and preceptors have a high level of commitment to the residents. Pharmacy residents spend most of their rotations with well-established clinical pharmacists who have close working relationships with the medical staff and a wealth of experience to share. Residents leave the program with the skills to become excellent practitioners.

We also get to know our residents outside of work as friends. It is in our best interest to do this, as we have traditionally hired a majority of our residents after completion of the program.

How customizable is your program?

Each resident must complete orientation and the following required rotations: Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Practice, Adult Critical Care, Progressive Care with renal and cardiac emphases, Infectious Disease. There is also some time built into the schedule to allow for work on administrative projects, such as P&T presentations, residency projects and quality improvement initiatives.

There is time for one or two elective rotations that are chosen by the resident. Available electives are neonatal intensive care, surgery, oncology, infusion center, and clinical or operational management. All rotations are precepted by a clinical pharmacist.

The resident has some flexibility in when a final decision is made on their electives since we know that as you experience the different areas of clinical pharmacy, your interests may change along the way. Our program is designed to give you a good foundation in major areas of clinical pharmacy and the resources for you to explore your interests.

If you are interested in doing a PGY2 specialty residency, we attempt to schedule a related rotation prior to the ASHP Midyear meeting, if possible. The annual resident project may be done in that area of interest if there is an organizational need.



Providence Health & Services is an equal opportunity employer.

Providence is calling.**What is a typical day like during your residency?**

Residents act as decentralized clinical pharmacists on most days. They are responsible for complete patient profile reviews, managing consults, transition of care services and managing clinical issues that arise. Most rotations also have interdisciplinary rounds attended by pharmacy. Residents meet with their preceptor on a daily basis to discuss patients and pertinent drug or disease state topics. Time during the week is also spent educating patients and students, attending departmental and interdisciplinary meetings, completing journal clubs, case presentations, departmental projects, and a residency project.

What are the staffing requirements of the residency program?

Residents independently work several weeklong periods covering various services, day or evening, during the year. Weekend staffing is currently every other weekend. These are a mix of operational and clinical.

Are there opportunities to teach and precept students?

Our department hosts many fourth year pharmacy students on rotation, as well as third year pharmacy students and high school students interested in the profession. Residents are expected to act as preceptors to any type of student while on rotation together.

There are also opportunities throughout the year to provide education to pharmacy, nursing, medical and other hospital staff. PAMC is not affiliated with any college or university, and there is not a pharmacy school in Alaska; providing classroom lectures to pharmacy students is not available. The University of Alaska – Anchorage campus is located across the street from the hospital and has a large nursing program, which offers the potential for teaching. At times there may be an opportunity to lecture to larger groups depending on requests in the community, but these are not routine. Past residents have given lectures at the annual Alaska Heart Institute update, the Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association annual meeting and the Alaska Pharmacists Association annual meeting.

Do pharmacy personnel spend time together outside of work?

Yes! Many of our staff members are good friends and spend time outside of work together. Activities often include hiking, skiing, pub trivia, going to the movies, having dinner, brewing beer, fishing and hunting, walking pets, going to the theater or symphony, working out, and going on vacation together. Many of the staff members are not originally from Alaska, so they often spend holiday celebrations together too.

What are you looking for in a resident?

The resident should expect a very demanding program with multiple simultaneous responsibilities. A burning desire for learning, and a willingness to put in many hours outside a normal work week, with good stress and time management skills, are necessary. An ability to communicate openly with maturity and emotional intelligence is very important.

We seek candidates who demonstrate an interest in improving the plight of the patient by promoting the profession, the role of pharmacy, and effectiveness of our services to that end. Previous involvement in clinical projects and extracurricular activities demonstrate that desire.

Our residents are expected to become competent in the central pharmacy and clinical areas quickly, so an excellent clinical foundation (some acute care rotations completed) and previous work in a hospital pharmacy are advantages. We use a Pharmacy School GPA cut-off of 3.0 in our initial screening of applicants.

During the presentation at the interview we look for the applicant's ability to create good visual aids and to articulately present clinical information, including analysis of pertinent literature.

And finally, we are looking for residents who will work in partnership with our staff, find humor in their day and love what they are doing.

Answer the call.
providenceiscalling.jobs