

PGY2 Pharmacy Residency: Mental Health

VA North Texas Health Care System

Program Director: Scott Price, PharmD, BCPP



The mental health specialty residency supported by the VA North Texas Healthcare System. The program is also affiliated with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Pharmacy. The residency is designed to produce clinical pharmacists who are competent to practice in inpatient and outpatient settings involving psychiatric pharmacotherapy. A psychiatric pharmacist should possess a mastery of clinical skills needed to optimize pharmacologic therapy to treat patients with psychiatric and neuropsychiatric disorders in various mental health settings. This residency provides the environment necessary to achieve the knowledge and skills needed to care for patients with a wide range of disorders. The program will foster the development of an independent, versatile practitioner. The program is also designed to produce well rounded, independent professionals through experiences in teaching, research, and professional activities.

General Description

The 12-month program is designed to lead the resident through a variety of rotational and longitudinal learning experiences in a variety of practice settings. By the end of the program, the resident should feel competent practicing in inpatient and outpatient settings involving psychiatric pharmacotherapy. The residency includes core rotations that are chosen to establish a strong base in in psychiatric and neuropsychiatric pharmacotherapy. Core disorders within this residency include depression, bipolar disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), schizophrenia, dementia, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, and substance use disorders. The resident may choose electives based on their career goals. Although the residency is designed around core and elective rotational and or longitudinal learning experiences, the focus of the training will be to master each of the diseases and conditions established within the ASHP required competency areas, goals, and objectives for PGY2 psychiatric pharmacy residencies.

Program Goals

Practice Excellence

- Develop a mastery of knowledge base in psychiatric pharmacotherapy
- Develop solid patient care skills in both acute and chronic care settings
- Develop a sound understanding of pharmacy practice management
- Establish oneself as an integral member of the health care team

Scholastic Excellence

- Demonstrate proficiency in teaching in both didactic and small group learning environments
- Develop effective precepting skills
- Generate new knowledge in psychiatric pharmacotherapy
- Interpret and disseminate knowledge in psychiatric pharmacotherapy

Individual Excellence

- Develop a system of self-assessment and development
- Demonstrate exemplary verbal and written communication skills
- Utilize a system for balancing multiple work-related and personal responsibilities
- Understand the importance of professionalism through participation in pharmacy

Program Activities

Required Longitudinal Activities

- Medication education groups
- Teaching activities
- Research/journal clubs/MUE

Required Learning Experiences

- Acute Care
- Inpatient Geriatric Psychiatry
- Mental Health Intensive Case Management
- Outpatient Mental Health
- Primary Care – Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)
- Substance Use Disorders

Elective Rotations

- Correctional Healthcare Mental Health (through Parkland Health)*
- MH Consultation Team/Emergency Department
- OEF/OIF Trauma Clinic
- Pain Management
- New elective learning experiences may be developed based on resident interests/career goals

* Texas pharmacist license required for non-VA learning experiences

Teaching Activities

Residents are appointed as Assistant Instructors with Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy. Teaching activities for residents are designed to complement practice activities while allowing the resident to experience a variety of teaching methods.

Clinician-Educator Training Program

Structured throughout the residency, this program provides training for residents who are interested in developing their academic skills. The major goal of the training program is to supplement a strong clinical background with the skills needed to become a successful educator. The program includes didactic and web-based teaching models, mentored facilitator training for small-group problem-based learning, and precepting of third and fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy students. Residents also receive instruction in grant writing, statistics, and clinical trial design; submit a project proposal to the institutional review board; and collect, interpret, and publish their results. Additional activities to enhance discovery, integration, and writing skills are described. The program also includes innovative discussion topics based upon needs previously identified by new faculty members. Examples include

handling difficult students, writing test questions, developing consistent evaluation methods, and balancing life outside of career.

Experiential Teaching

Clerkship teaching (involving both P3 and P4 PharmD students) is integrated into the resident practice model. Early in the program, the resident will observe faculty clerkship preceptors and become integrated into various aspects of clerkship teaching. By the end of the residency program, residents have the opportunity to independently precept clerkship students.

Residency Project

Residents will complete one project per year. Residents may choose any type of research project or quality improvement program, provided that the project:

1. Includes generation of an original idea
2. Is suitable for publication or presentation at a national pharmacy meeting
3. Can reasonably be completed within the residency year

Additional Activities

Resident Rounds Seminar Series

Residents will present a formal 45-minute presentation to the VANTHCS pharmacy staff and TTUHSC faculty in the fall. Residents may choose topics including: those of sufficient controversy or debate that are candidates for further publication in the medical literature (i.e. review article, editorial), hot topics in clinical pharmacy, and updates in practice guidelines. These presentations are accredited for 1 hour of CE credit for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

VISN 17 Psychiatric Pharmacy Didactics Series

Residents will participate in weekly psychiatric pharmacy didactics discussions. These discussions are presented by VISN 17 pharmacy residents with participation, feedback, and evaluation provided by pharmacy residents and Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialists. Each 60-minute session consists of a 40 minute presentation of an assigned topic and 15-20 minutes for questions and discussion. Residents will be assigned three topics each to present throughout the year but are expected to attend all of the weekly presentations.

College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) Annual Meeting

Residents are encouraged to attend the CPNP annual meeting and present their research during the poster session. This meeting also provides interactive lectures for practice development and networking opportunities.

Southwestern Leadership Conference (ALCALDE)

Residents are encouraged to participate in this regional residents meeting, also known as ALCALDE, in the spring. Residents have the opportunity to present their project results for evaluation. This meeting also provides an opportunity to network and interact with residents from other programs throughout the region.

Program Leadership



Scott Price, PharmD, BCPP

Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist | MH Diamond Team
PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program Director
VA North Texas Health Care System | Dallas VA Medical Center

Dr. Price received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Pharmacy. He then completed his PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center in Toms River, New Jersey followed by a PGY2 Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacy specialty residency with Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey. After residency, Dr. Price worked as the Inpatient Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville, New Jersey. He then moved to Texas for his current position as a Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with the Diamond Team Outpatient Mental Health Clinic at the VA North Texas Health Care System. Dr. Price is a Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist.

Information for Applicants

Qualifications

Residency applicants must have a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree from an ACPE accredited pharmacy school and be eligible for enrollment in the Veterans Administration and Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy, as well as completion of an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency. The applicant must hold an active registered pharmacist license from a state within the United States, but a Texas pharmacist is not required.

Residency Program Contact

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