The VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLAHS) offers a 12-month specialty pharmacy residency in Primary Care, located at three sites: Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center, Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center, and the West Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center. Each site offers the resident the opportunity to learn skills in multidisciplinary team approach to patient care, patient education classes, and pharmacy-run clinics. The clinical pharmacy staff provides comprehensive outpatient services to veterans in areas of general medicine, mental health, diabetes, pain management, HIV, cardiology, and several other subspecialty areas.

The resident will be given a home site in which to receive his/her training. Rotations to the other two ambulatory care centers for additional experience are also available. A mandatory six-week rotation through the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program will also train the resident on drafting a drug request evaluation, formulary management skills, drug utilization reviews and Pharmacy and Therapeutics participation. A six-week elective in Acute Care is also available.

Teaching is a large component to the resident’s training experience. Residents have the option to apply to a Courtesy Faculty position in order to teach Clinical Therapeutics case discussions for Level III students at the USC School of Pharmacy. Residents will also be on-site preceptors for the Level IV Ambulatory Care Clerkship students. Teaching is not just limited to students. Patient education classes on various topics such as diabetes meter training, smoking cessation, inhaler training, and Brown Bag Days provide the resident the opportunity to educate veteran patients on their medication treatment therapies. Pharmacy residents also give lectures to GLAHS Pharmacy staff for ACPE continuing education credit.

Each resident is required to complete a research project for presentation at the Annual Western States Conference for Residents, Fellows and Preceptors in the spring. Training on the use of computers to collect and analyze data is also provided.

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