

Piedmont Athens Regional PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the role of the pharmacist at Piedmont Athens?
 - The pharmacy department is well respected within the health system. Pharmacy leaders are involved in local and system level committees and initiatives within the system. Pharmacists provide services from the central pharmacy, an operating room satellite, and many decentralized locations throughout the facility. Pharmacists participate in multidisciplinary rounds, pharmacokinetic consults, patient education and serve as a drug information resource for nurses, physicians and other healthcare professionals. Clinical pharmacists practice in our high acuity areas of the emergency department, adult ICU, neonatal ICU, as well as infectious disease, inpatient and outpatient anticoagulation management and ambulatory care clinics. PAR employs approximately 30 pharmacists

2. What are the resident's staffing responsibilities?
 - Pharmacy residents are required to staff every other weekend, Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am to 8pm. The residents manage all anticoagulation consults and then report to the main pharmacy by 3:30pm to complete the remainder of the shift in the main pharmacy. Residents are also required to cover one of three holiday combinations:
 - Labor Day and New Year's Day, or
 - Memorial Day and Thanksgiving, or
 - Christmas Day

3. Are the residents required to take call?
 - Residents are required to take a total of 5 weeks of call. The resident is responsible for responding to phone calls from patients, physicians and/or pharmacy staff. A preceptor is assigned for back up. The resident will not be required to be present at the hospital during their call week beyond their normal resident responsibilities.
 - One week of administrative call
 - Two (2) weeks of Anticoagulation Clinic call
 - Two (2) weeks of Inpatient Clinical call

4. What are some typical projects that the residents complete throughout the year?
 - Residents complete various projects throughout the year including Medication Use Evaluations, Formulary monograph/therapeutic interchange review, drug protocol development and operational procedures. Residents are also required to complete a year long project that impacts pharmacy practice within the institution or one of the pharmacy ambulatory clinics.

5. What does the interaction between pharmacists and physicians look like?
 - Pharmacists work collaboratively with physicians throughout the hospital and several ambulatory clinics. Pharmacists interact with providers face to face during multidisciplinary rounds, over the phone and in written notes within the electronic medical record. Pharmacists are identified as part of the patient care team by nurses, physicians and medical residents.

6. What type of presentation opportunities are provided to the residents?
 - Residents are required to present at least 2 formal presentations. Traditionally, these have been local or state level presentations and to other healthcare providers within the hospital system. Journal clubs, in-services for nursing, pharmacists and/or medical residents are scheduled during each rotation.

7. What teaching opportunities are available?
 - Piedmont Athens Regional hosts approximately 25 students annually for IPPE and APPE rotations from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Residents participate in the preceptor role for these students along with the primary preceptor.
 - Piedmont Athens Regional Graduate Medical Education program provides opportunities for pharmacy residents to participate in teaching roles with medical students and medical residents.