

PRECEPTORS



**Dave Blaha, Pharm. D., Dave Blaha, Pharm. D.,** is a clinical pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa, and completed a PGY1 residency with Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has practiced at MercyOne since 1999, and currently serves as the preceptor for the Cardiology core rotation and ICU elective. His professional interests include medication safety, cardiology, and critical care. Dave is also a member of ASHP, IPA and is past-President of North Iowa Pharmacy, Inc



**Shana Brunsvold, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is a clinical pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2007 and completed a PGY1 residency at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Shana serves as an adjunct assistant professor for the University of Iowa - College of Pharmacy. Shana is a preceptor for the Acute Care Pharmacy Practice rotation and serves as the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director. Her professional interests include internal medicine, infectious disease, and pharmacy practice leadership. Shana is a member of ACCP, ASHP, and IPA.



**Ben Buffington, Pharm. D.,** is a staff pharmacist at MercyOne Long Term Care Pharmacy. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2019. Ben serves as a preceptor for the long-term care rotation. His professional interests include geriatrics and transitions of care.



**Emily Doerfler, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is Clinical Supervisor of Hospital Pharmacy Operations & Pharmacy Department Informatics at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in 2014 and completed a PGY1 residency at Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, MO. She is currently working toward a Master of Science degree in Clinical Informatics and Patient-Centered Technologies through the University of Washington. Emily is an adjunct assistant professor for Creighton University. She serves as a preceptor for the medication use rotation and informatics elective. Her professional interests include pharmacy informatics, hospital operations, and process improvement.



**Kirk Eckhoff, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is a clinical pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2005 and completed a PGY1 residency at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Kirk serves as a critical care preceptor and is an adjunct assistant professor for the University of Iowa and Drake. His professional interests include cardiology and critical care.



**Sarah Farndale, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is a pharmacist at the MercyOne North Iowa Anticoagulation Clinic. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2012 and completed a PGY1 residency at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Sarah is a preceptor for the ambulatory care clinical rotation at the anticoagulation clinic. Her professional interests include cardiology and transitions of care. She is a past president of North Iowa Pharmacy, Inc. and a member of the Iowa Pharmacy Association.



**Chase Kern, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is a clinical pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from South Dakota State University in 2021. Following graduation, he completed the PGY1 residency at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Chase is the primary preceptor for the internal medicine I and II rotations and the infectious disease rotation. He is the coordinator of the Pharmacy & Therapeutics and Antibiotic Stewardship committees. His professional interests include critical care, infectious disease, internal medicine, and hospital policy and procedure.



**Cheryl Larson, Rph., BCPS, BCSCP,** is a clinical pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. She received her Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 1994. Cheryl serves as preceptor for the Acute Care Pharmacy Practice rotation. Her professional interests include sterile compounding and hospital pharmacy operations. Cheryl is a member of ACCP and ASHP.



**Zach Law, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is a clinical pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from South Dakota State University in 2010. Following graduation, he completed the PGY1 residency at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Zach is a preceptor for the critical care residency rotation. He is also a rotation preceptor for South Dakota State University and the University of Iowa - College of Pharmacy. Zach serves as secretary of North Iowa Pharmacy, Inc. (NIPI). His professional interests include critical care, cardiology and internal medicine.



**Jill Leisure, Pharm. D., BCACP,** is the lead clinical pharmacist of the MercyOne Anticoagulation Clinic. This clinic specializes in ambulatory outpatient anticoagulation management which serves approximately 520 patients in the North Iowa area. Jill received her B.S. in pharmacy from South Dakota State University in 1991, and then completed her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Iowa in 2002. Jill is an active preceptor of both residents and students. Her professional interests include anticoagulation, heart failure, diabetes and geriatrics. She is a member of ASHP.



**Craig Osland, MS, RPh,** has served as Director of Pharmacy at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center since October 1995. He serves as preceptor for the Leadership rotation. He was an Assistant Director of Pharmacy at the University of Colorado Hospital, and Pharmacy Supervisor at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, prior to returning to the Midwest. He received his B.S. in pharmacy from South Dakota State University and his combined M.S. degree with a two-year hospital pharmacy and administrative residency from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW Hospital and Clinics. He is an adjunct assistant professor and preceptor at the University of Iowa-College of Pharmacy and Drake University College of Pharmacy. He is a member of the MercyOne-Iowa Pharmacy Directors Council. His professional interests include organizational and pharmacy practice leadership, integration of pharmacy services across the continuum of care, continuous quality/process improvements and customer service. Craig is a member of ASHP.



**Abbey Pitzenberger, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is a clinical oncology pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Cancer Center. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2006 and completed a PGY1 residency at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Abbey serves as an adjunct assistant professor for the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and is also a rotation preceptor for Drake University and Creighton University. Her professional interests include oncology targeted therapy and supportive care. Abbey is a member of ACCP and HOPA.



**John Swegle, Pharm. D., BCPS, BCACP,** is a clinical pharmacist on faculty at the Family Medicine Residency Program at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. He is also a Clinical Associate Professor for the University of Iowa - College of Pharmacy. He received his B.S. degree in pharmacy from Drake University and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa. In addition, he has completed a pharmacy residency in Family Medicine from the University of Iowa - College of Pharmacy and the University of Iowa Department of Family Medicine. He is a member of the Iowa Pharmacy Association, ACCP, APHA, ASHP, and North Iowa Pharmacy, Inc. His areas of interest include geriatrics, hospice and palliative, and ambulatory care.



**Vanessa Vesely, Pharm. D., BCPS,** is a clinical pharmacist at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from South Dakota State University in 2018 and completed a PGY1 residency at Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Vanessa serves as a preceptor for the emergency department rotation. Her professional interests include internal medicine, emergency medicine, and transitions of care.



PGY-1  
Pharmacy Residency Program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Expected outcomes of the resident include:
- Provision of clinical pharmacy in multiple environments
  - Functioning as a contributing member of an inter-disciplinary health care team enhancing patient care
  - Education of patients and health care professionals
  - Personal commitment to life-long learning, self-assessment and self-evaluation
  - Commitment to advancing the practice and the pharmacy profession
  - Ability to establish and manage their own clinical pharmacy practice

ACCREDITATION

The 52-week residency program is accredited by ASHP.

RESIDENT POSITIONS

This program offers two full-time pharmacist resident positions.

PROJECT

The resident is required to complete one major project that pertains to a particular pharmacy topic or issue. A final project report must be prepared, formally presented and submitted in publishable form.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY IN-SERVICE

Residents are required to provide an interdepartmental in-service as a means of educating health care professionals on timely medication-related matters and medication policies.

EXTERNAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (AND SUPPORT)

The resident is given financial support to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. The resident is expected to participate in the Residency Showcase and Resident Poster Presentation session at this meeting. Additionally, the resident is expected to attend resident meetings offered by the Iowa Pharmacy Association. PGY1 residents are given financial support to attend the annual Midwest Pharmacy Residency Conference (or equivalent) and present their year-long residency projects.

STIPEND/BENEFIT INFORMATION

The stipend for the 52-week residency is competitive and updated annually. Please contact the residency program director for the most current information. The resident receives 10 days of paid time off, plus approved holidays. The resident is eligible for the health insurance benefits offered by MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Residents

RESIDENCY PURPOSE STATEMENT

Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) education and outcomes to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for providing diverse patient care, eligible for board certification and eligible for Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training. Pharmacists completing this residency program will be competent and confident providers of clinical pharmacy in multiple environments. They will be responsible and accountable for achieving the best possible drug therapy outcomes for patients as members of the inter-disciplinary healthcare team. They will be skillful educators of patients, healthcare professionals and the community on medication related topics. They will establish a personal philosophy of practice, which includes a commitment to life-long learning through the ongoing assessment and evaluation of their own performance. They will demonstrate leadership through advancing the practice and profession of pharmacy. Pharmacists completing this residency program will also be able to establish and manage their own clinical pharmacy practice.

are supported to attend professional meetings, such as the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Resources available to the residents include resident office space and personal computer.

OVERVIEW OF MERCYONE & PHARMACEUTICAL CARE SERVICES

Please visit the MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center [MercyOne.org/northiowa/careers/graduate-medical-education/pgy1-pharmacy-residency](https://www.mercyone.org/northiowa/careers/graduate-medical-education/pgy1-pharmacy-residency) for more information on MercyOne, the Pharmacy Department and Residency Program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information regarding the residency program contact:

**Shana Brunsvold, Pharm. D., BCPS**  
Residency Program Director  
MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center  
1000 Fourth St. SW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-428-1490  
[brunsvos@mercyhealth.com](mailto:brunsvos@mercyhealth.com)

**Emily Doerfler, Pharm. D., BCPS**  
Residency Program Coordinator  
MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center  
1000 Fourth St. SW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
641-428-7056  
[emily.doerfler@mercyhealth.com](mailto:emily.doerfler@mercyhealth.com)

MercyOne completes and evaluates background information prior to hire on all new colleagues to include:

- Investigation of previous employment background
- Single Contact Repository (SING) to check for criminal or abuse convictions in the state of Iowa
- Background check through a qualified background check vendor which includes the following screening: the National Criminal Database, a Medicare / Medicaid fraud check through the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) on the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General website, the Certiphi Sanctions Database, the National Sex Offender Registry, verification of Social Security number, and when applicable a driver's record check and education.
- Education verification must be done through a background check, original diploma or transcript provided by the colleague.

Prior to hire all new colleagues will undergo a health assessment to ensure the ability to perform the essential functions of the position for which they are being hired. Assessment includes:

- General physical information and be related to the essential functions of the specific position to be occupied by the applicant.
- TB IGRA test will be done
- Urine drug screen will be required at the time of the physical
- Respiratory fit test and / or post offer screen may be required as related to specific positions
- Proof of required immunizations, titers or serologic test of antibodies
  - Rubella
  - Varicella- Zoster
  - Rubeola
  - Mumps
  - Influenza
  - Meningococcal
  - Hepatitis B (or waiver)
  - Tdap
  - Covid-19 vaccination (or request exemption)

APPLICATION MATERIALS

If you are interested in applying to the Residency Program, please use: ASHP PHORCAS to provide a letter of intent, Curriculum Vitae, current official academic transcripts and three letters of recommendation. Application deadline is January 2nd. ASHP Match #129613.

Applicants must be registered with the National Matching Service (NMS).

Applicants must be graduates of an ACPE-accredited College of Pharmacy or have a Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) certificate from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) and eligible for licensure in the state of Iowa. Pharmacy residents are required to be licensed as a Pharmacist in the State of Iowa by 60 days after the program start date.

MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center agrees that no person at this site will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any residency applicant.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Trinity Health is a family of 115,000 colleagues and nearly 26,000 physicians and clinicians across 25 states. Because we serve diverse populations, our colleagues are trained to recognize the cultural beliefs, values, traditions, language preferences, and health practices of the communities that we serve and to apply that knowledge to produce positive health outcomes. We also recognize that each of us has a different way of thinking and perceiving our world and that these differences often lead to innovative solutions.

Our dedication to diversity includes a unified workforce (through training and education, recruitment, retention, and development), commitment and accountability, communication, community partnerships, and supplier diversity.

ABOUT MERCYONE

We are MercyOne: a connected system of health care facilities and services dedicated to helping you and your community live your best life.

More than 22,000 colleagues strong, our care providers and staff make your health and happiness their highest priority, so you can get well—and stay well.

With 230+ care locations, our clinics, medical centers and affiliates are never too far from home, allowing us to improve the lives of individuals and communities across the state of Iowa and beyond.

