

Alfred Health

Pharmacy Internships 2025

Alfred Health

55 Commercial Road
Pahran VIC 3181

Campuses at which pharmacy intern will work

The Alfred, Caulfield Hospital & Sandringham Hospital

Hospital Information

www.alfredhealth.org.au

The Alfred is a major tertiary referral teaching hospital. It has a major role in the provision of specialist tertiary and quaternary services on a state-wide and national basis:

- Specialist areas include trauma, emergency and intensive care, comprehensive cancer services, blood diseases, melanoma, bone marrow transplant, respiratory medicine, cardiology/cardiovascular, neurosurgery, general and specialist surgery and medicine, psychiatry and diagnostic services
- The Alfred's state-wide services include heart and lung transplantation, cystic fibrosis, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), burns, HIV/AIDS, haemophilia, sexual health and hyperbaric medicine

In summary, The Alfred has:

- Total 638 beds, with 62 beds in ICU and 81 in emergency
- An association with the Baker Institute and with universities such as Monash, La Trobe and RMIT

Within the past year (2023-2024):

- 121,829 Emergency presentations
- 11,828 Planned surgeries performed from the waiting list
- 311,522 Specialist Outpatient appointments
- 654 Clinical Trials open

Staff benefits include:

- A staff fitness centre, mini-mart with post office and newsagency, the Ian Potter library which has private study areas with internet & e-mail access, salary packaging, plus much more
- Well serviced by public transport – bus routes along Punt Road, trams along St Kilda Road, High Street and Commercial Road, nearby Pahrn and South Yarra train stations

Pharmacy Department

Department Head and Director of Pharmacy

Professor Michael Dooley

Department Information

Approximately 200 pharmacists and 70 support staff enable the Alfred Health Pharmacy department to provide a 7 day a week, extended hour clinical pharmacy service incorporating a range of innovative services through five programs:

1. Clinical Pharmacy Services:

Clinical pharmacy services are organized in a unit-based model. This model enables clinical pharmacists to work closely with our medical teams. Clinical pharmacists are also integral members of the multidisciplinary team (consisting of nursing and allied health).

- Cancer and Medical Specialties
 - Oncology, Haematology, Palliative Care, Infectious Diseases, HIV, Gastroenterology, Renal and Rheumatology
- Cardiology
 - Cardiothoracic, Medical Cardiology, Heart Transplant Inpatient and Outpatient Clinic, Heart Failure and Atrial Fibrillation Outpatient Clinic
- Respiratory and Brain
 - Respiratory, Cystic Fibrosis, Lung Transplant Inpatient and Outpatient Clinic
 - Stroke, Neurology, Epilepsy and Neurosurgery
- Emergency and Acute Medicine
 - Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care, General Medicine
 - Hospital in the Home (HITH) and General Medicine Hospital in the Home (GITH)
- Psychiatry
 - Inpatient Services and Community Outreach Services
- Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Care
 - Rehabilitation, Aged Care, Aged Care Psychiatry, BAH and MATS
- Surgical
 - Burns, Trauma, Colorectal surgery, Ear/Nose/Throat (ENT), Neurosurgery, Plastics, Vascular, Breast and Endocrine, Orthopaedics, Urology, General surgery

Clinical pharmacists at Alfred Health are credentialed to undertake a number of pharmacist-led programs independently, including:

- Smoking cessation and nicotine replacement prescribing
- Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and dose adjustment of vancomycin and aminoglycosides
- Warfarin monitoring and dose adjustment
- Stroke thrombolysis call-outs
- Sepsis alert call-outs
- Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting
- Opioid de-escalation

2. Quality Use of Medicines Services:

- Medication safety services
- Medication evaluation
- Medicines Information Centre

3. Operational Services:

- Centralised inpatient and discharge dispensing
- Outpatient pharmacy services
- Aseptic preparation and manufacturing services
- Clinical trial support services to over 300 clinical trials

4. Research:

- State of the art pharmacy-based research centre (Centre for Medication Use and Safety)
- Post-graduate research programs including PhD programs

5. Education:

- Management of department credentialing programs
- Involvement in undergraduate education
- Coordination of student placements
- Management of Pharmacy Intern Program
- AdPha-accredited Foundation Residency and the Advanced Training (Registrar) Program
- Development of all clinical staff through various programs (ClinCAT, Teaching On The Run)
- Management of the Pharmacy Learning and Development Hub External Courses

Pharmacy Intern Training Program

The Pharmacy Department at Alfred Health provides a comprehensive and modern intern training program at one of Australia's most renowned Clinical Pharmacy services. Interns train in a department which is at the leading edge of pharmacy practice, side-by-side with some of Australia's most advanced clinical pharmacists. In 2025, Alfred Health will employ eight interns.

Alfred Health offers the Intern Foundation Program (IFP), which enables interns to undertake a research project and workplace-based activities to assist in developing and strengthening their fundamental clinical pharmacy skills.

Orientation

Every intern undergoes a one-week orientation program and introduction to the department. Interns will also be allocated a three-week clinical orientation rotation with their mentor. The purpose of the clinical orientation is to develop their skills in fundamental clinical pharmacy processes and to become familiar with the workplace.

Rotations

Intern rotations are primarily based at The Alfred Hospital. However, there will also be opportunities throughout the year to experience our clinical pharmacy services at Caulfield and Sandringham Hospitals. Rotations include:

- Operational rotations
 - 8 weeks in total (dispensaries and aseptic preparations)
- Clinical rotations (core):
 - General Medicine: 6 weeks
 - Surgical (specialities, trauma and peri-op): 7 weeks
 - Cardiology: 5 weeks
 - Geriatric Medicine: 5 weeks
 - Respiratory/Brain: 3 weeks
- Clinical rotation (elective):
 - 3 weeks in a clinical area of intern choice
 - Options include Emergency Medicine, HIV and Infectious Diseases, Renal medicine, Haematology and Oncology, Psychiatry, heart and lung transplant, and Intensive care
- Quality Use of Medicines:
 - Medicines Information: 1 week
 - Medicine Safety: 1 week
- Research:
 - 3 weeks

Support

Each intern will be allocated a dedicated mentor, to provide guidance, advice and assistance with exam preparation. Each intern will also be allocated a Research mentor, who is a senior pharmacist to assist with the development of a research project. Alfred Health also has an Intern Coordinator (member of the Learning and Development Team) to guide you through the year. The majority of staff in the department are actively involved in the intern training program, either through working directly with interns during their rotations and/or via facilitation of weekly intern education sessions.

Education Program

The education program comprises of weekly intern education sessions on a range of clinical, primary care and exam preparation topics. Clinical sessions are often presented by clinical pharmacists in the hospital, many of them specialists in their field. The timetable is coordinated around the intern training programs to ensure you have adequate knowledge to comfortably meet all requirements.

Research and Governance portfolio

In accordance with the Monash Intern Foundation Program (IFP), each intern will contribute toward a research project and governance in a specified portfolio. The aim of the Research and Governance Portfolio is to provide an opportunity to develop research, leadership and administrative skills in a chosen speciality. Interns are allocated time throughout the year, as well as a dedicated research rotation, to focus on their project.

Practice Exams

Multiple practice exams are provided during the year to assist interns become familiar with the structure of the exams and the questions expected. Four exams will be run by the department under strict exam conditions to simulate the real environment. Additional practice exams are also organised with your mentor.

Contact Person:

Ashlei Mornement

Senior Pharmacist – Learning & Development
(Pharmacy Intern Training Program Coordinator)

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Opportunities at Alfred Health after your internship

The Alfred Health Pharmacy Department clinical services are supported by research, educational initiatives and a career progression model. To facilitate this, the following programs are available:

AdPha accredited Foundation Residency Training Program

- A structured and supported two-year program designed for motivated pharmacists who have either completed their internship or those new to hospital pharmacy
- Residents are exposed to innovative and contemporary pharmacy practice at Alfred Health in both clinical and operational capacities
- As well as undertaking assessment tools designed to further develop skills and knowledge, residents will also complete an audit or quality improvement style research project

AdPha accredited Advanced Training (Registrar) Program

- A structured and supported two-year program for enthusiastic and motivated pharmacists with 3-5 years clinical pharmacy experience
- The pharmacist will work closely with their mentor in their specialty strengthening their specialist knowledge
- The pharmacist will contribute to improving medication management on a larger scale through contributing to practice-based research projects and service and practice improvement work

“The Alfred Health internship is a fantastic opportunity to learn and practice in one of Australia's leading hospital pharmacy services and contribute directly to the care of patients in a dynamic and cutting-edge hospital environment.”

Professor Michael Dooley (Director of Pharmacy)