

# Atlanta VA Healthcare System

## Primary Care Post-Graduate Physician Assistant Residency Program

The Atlanta VA Medical Center is a member of the largest integrated health care delivery system in America and the fourth largest network in the Veterans Health Administration. The VA Southeast Network is committed to ensuring Veterans receive highly integrated and coordinated care and support services.



Because **I CARE**, I will....

**I**ntegrity  
**C**ommitment  
**A**dvocacy  
**R**espect  
**E**xcellence

The acronym **I CARE** represents the core values at the VA and are integral to the care and services provided.

### 12 MONTH DIDACTIC & CLINICAL EDUCATION

#### CURRICULUM

- Core rotations in Primary Care, Geriatrics and Cardiology
- Select rotations in Emergency Medicine, inpatient and clinical specialties such as Behavioral Health, Pulmonary, Gastroenterology and Endocrinology Medicine.
- Select projects in quality improvement.

#### PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCY

The Atlanta VA Healthcare System Primary Care Post-Graduate Residency program for Physician Assistants is an immersive 12 months of didactic and clinical educational experiences. Training will focus on PACT concepts and methodology to care, clinical leadership, systems-based practice, chronic disease management, process improvement, patient engagement, and providing seamless, yet timely, transitions of care between primary and specialty care services.

This program prepares three Physician Assistant graduates each year, to become effective leaders and primary care team members in the Veterans Administration Medical Center's out-patient clinics delivering care to veterans in Patient Aligned Care Teams.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Graduate from an ARC-PA accredited PA Program
- Minimum PA Program GPA of 3.5
- Eligible for a Georgia license and the PANCE
- Letter of recommendation from the PA Program Director
- Meet the technical standards of the PA Program
- Narrative describing the reason for interest in this residency
- Successful interview with Residency Program faculty

#### BE A LEADER

- Gain valuable practice leadership skills in transforming primary care
- Increase your sense of confidence as you step into future roles
- Position yourself to lead change
- Equip yourself with critical decision-making skills

#### ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

- Competitive stipend & health benefits
- Gain competency in patient & family centered care, care management, practice leadership, system-based practice, team-based practice, patient advocacy, health information technology, quality improvement, and more
- Use the latest health information technology and evidence-based medical approaches as well as maintain updated electronic personal health records
- Participate as a high functioning member and as a leader in the healthcare teams



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration

# Atlanta VA Healthcare System

## Primary Care Post-Graduate Physician Assistant

### Residency Program

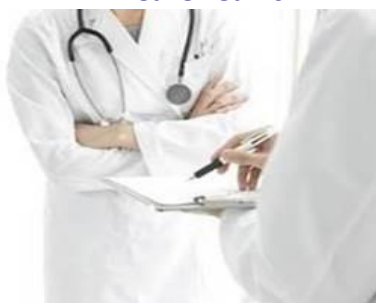
#### PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

The Institute of Medicine's definition of primary care provides the foundation of VHA primary care. "Primary care is the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community." (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2017)

THE PACT MODEL



**Preparing Effective Leaders and Members of Patient Aligned Care Teams**



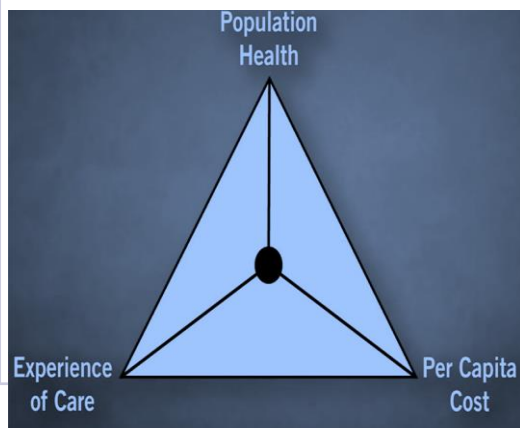
#### WHAT IS A PACT?

A Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) is each veteran working together with health care professionals to plan for the whole-person care and life-long health and wellness. They focus on:

- **Partnerships** with veterans
  - **Access** to care using diverse methods
  - **Coordinated care** among team members
  - **Team-based care** with veterans as the center of their PACT
- (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2016)

PACT is the cornerstone of the New Models of Care transformation initiative intended to transform the way veterans receive their care. It assists VHA in transforming veterans' care by providing patient-driven, proactive, personalized, and team-based care oriented towards wellness and disease prevention which results in improvements in veteran satisfaction and improved outcomes and costs of healthcare.

THE TRAINING MODEL



#### THE TRIPLE AIM GOALS

"The IHI Triple Aim is a framework developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement that describes an approach to optimizing health system performance.

- "Improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction);
- Improving the health of populations; and
- Reducing the per capita cost of health care.

(<http://www.ihl.org/Engage/Initiatives/TripleAim/Pages/default.aspx>)

#### ATLANTA VAHCS TRAINING

The training model— guided by the Triple Aim goals of improving health outcomes, containing cost, and improving the patient experience and provider experience— will prepare the trainee to serve as an effective clinical team leader and member of the PACT's in VA community-based primary care clinics. The trainee will learn to coordinate care to meet the continuum of care health services needs of the VA population.

**Accepting Applications**  
November 2022  
Starting April 2023

**For Instructions on How To Apply**  
Contact:  
Shelia Palmer, PA-C, MBA, MHA  
PA Residency Director  
[shelia.palmer@va.gov](mailto:shelia.palmer@va.gov)

**VA**



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