Hospital

Ballarat Health Services

Campuses at which pharmacy intern will work

Ballarat Base Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Centre

Hospital Information

Ballarat Health Services (BHS) is the largest regional health service in the Grampians region, employing approximately 4000 staff. It is the principal referral hospital for the region.

Ballarat Health Services works to improve the health and wellbeing of its patients, their families and the community. BHS is a total health care provider, meaning that it cares for patients and the community with a comprehensive range of general and specialist care, across every key discipline.

Ballarat Health Services comprises of two campuses which include acute medical and surgical (224 beds), psychiatric services (67 beds), aged care assessment, palliative care, psycho-geriatric and rehabilitation (70 beds). The wide range of services available includes Emergency, Oncology/Palliative Care, Paediatrics and Neonatology, general and specialty Medical and Surgical services, Maternity and Outpatient clinics.

In 2013, the Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre (BRICC) opened. This new centre has enhanced the delivery of oncology services for patients of the Grampians Region, and highlights the growth of the hospital in response to community demand.

In February 2017 the new Gardiner-Pittard building opened, which includes a new 32 bed surgical ward further expanding the hospital’s size.

For more information, check the hospital web site: www.bhs.org.au

Pharmacy Department

Department Head

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Department Information

The pharmacy department is staffed by a team of more than 20 EFT pharmacists, 2 interns and 9 EFT technician/other support staff. Pharmacy services are provided to the Acute (Base Hospital) and Sub-acute (Queen Elizabeth Centre) Campuses. Hours of service are 8.30 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday. Weekend clinical pharmacy and dispensary shifts, and on-call services are staffed on a rostered basis.

A new Pharmacy Department was opened in June 2014 allowing interns to work in modern facilities purpose designed to deliver contemporary pharmacy services.

The focus of our work is to provide the highest standard of pharmaceutical care through a commitment to meeting the needs of our patients and customers. Our clinical pharmacy service prioritises transitions of care and includes medication reconciliation, medication order clinical review, therapeutic drug monitoring and medication counselling.
Clinical pharmacy services are provided to the following areas: general medical and surgical, cardiology, neurology/stroke, gastroenterology, mental health unit, surgical specialties including urology, orthopaedics, gynaecology, ENT, oncology, ICU, ED, paediatrics, maternity, palliative care, rehabilitation unit, aged care assessment unit.

Other services offered by the pharmacy department include inpatient, outpatient and discharge dispensing, aseptic and extemporaneous compounding, outreach pharmacy (HARP home medication reviews), antimicrobial stewardship, patient education (cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation and the persistent pain programs) and medication safety.

The BHS Pharmacy Department is growing as the hospital expands, offering great future job opportunities.

Free all-day parking is available in nearby streets and an on-site multi-level car park is available for all-day staff parking at reduced rates.

**Pharmacy Intern Training Program**

**Pharmacy Intern Training Program**

BHS offers two intern pharmacist positions. The structured training program provides interns with a wealth of learning opportunities to achieve their goal of becoming a registered pharmacist. The program is also designed to promote the highest level of dispensing accuracy, clinical knowledge and support for the transition from intern to registered pharmacist.

Each intern is assigned a preceptor for their year of training. A preceptor is a senior pharmacist with experience in mentorship and a passion for teaching and development.

Each intern is also assigned a mentor for their year of training. A mentor is a junior pharmacist who assists the preceptor with the coordination of the intern training program and helps the intern settle in to the social and practical aspects of working life.

Interns are provided with a comprehensive training manual which outlines all of the important components of the training year including: departmental procedures, roles and responsibilities of interns for each rotation, theory questions to assist with learning and tutorial questions

Interns spend time working in all areas of the BHS Pharmacy Department including:

- General clinical rotations (3-4 weeks)
- Specialty clinical rotations (2-3 weeks) including ICU, ED, Paediatrics/Neonatology
- Inpatient, outpatient and oncology dispensaries (Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre)
- Extemporaneous and aseptic manufacturing
- Medication safety & antimicrobial stewardship
- Clinical trials

Feedback and goal setting sessions following each rotation encourage the intern to progress their learning, encourage self-reflection on practice and plan for continuing professional development opportunities.

Weekly tutorials are provided by BHS pharmacists and other specialty staff including diabetes nurse educators, wound care nurses, dieticians etc. Tutorial topics include disease states, drug classes, primary health care and exam preparation.

In addition, BHS Intern Pharmacists are able to participate in the Allied Health Early Career Program, which includes 8 seminars over 8 months with a focus on several self-care and patient management aspects for health professionals including stress management, resilience, time management, conflict resolution, patient centred care, communication and motivational interviewing.

Extensive assistance with preparation for both the written and oral registration examinations is
provided regularly throughout the year including quiz sessions, one on one practice exams and take home questions.

BHS also encourages the completion of three logs to assist the intern with their development in;
- Dispensing accuracy
- Clinical review
- Checking procedures

Support is provided for either the Monash or PSA intern training programs- the choice is yours!

In 2017 the BHS Pharmacy Department became an accredited training site for the Intern Foundation Program (Monash University) and was also granted provisional accreditation as an SHPA Residency Program training site.

**Contact person**
For more information about the Pharmacy Intern Training Program at Ballarat Health Services, please contact:

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**Regional Information**
Ballarat has a population of more than 100,000 and is in the Central Highlands region of Victoria and is 113 km west of Victoria's capital city, Melbourne.

Ballarat offers a regional lifestyle, with all the benefits of a major city, catering for a broad range of educational, sporting and cultural interests.

Lake Wendouree is the city's centrepiece, and a popular place of recreation. Just a short distance from the hospital, the lake has a well-maintained 6 kilometre foreshore track suitable for walking, cycling and running.

Ballarat has a rich gold-era heritage that is reflected in the city's architecture and tourist attractions, including Sovereign Hill, Eureka Stockade, and the Gold Museum. The central location of Ballarat provides convenient access to the surf-coast beaches along the Great Ocean Road, the spectacular Grampians National Park, and the numerous wineries of the Grampians and Pyrenees regions.

http://www.goldfields.org.au  
http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au  
http://www.ballarat.com

**Pharmacy Intern Placement Coordinator**
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