

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Saudi Commission for Health Specialties  
(SCFHS)  
Scientific Council of Pharmacy



المملكة العربية السعودية  
الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات الصحية  
المجلس العلمي للصيدلة

# Clinical Pharmacy Residency Programs

## Residency Candidates Information Guide

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## General Definitions

- SCFHS
  - Saudi Commission for Health Specialties
- Training Center
  - Specialized healthcare facility eligible to participate in training programs Accredited by SCFHS
- Training Program
  - A training program approved by the Executive Council of SCFHS
- Training Supervisor
  - A consultant in the same specialty supervising the training in the training center
- General Specialty
  - Primary specialty in any branch of health specialties
- Local Training Committee
  - The committee responsible for the direct supervision of the residency in the region, headed by a member appointed by the Scientific Council, preferably a member of the Council. Members consist of residency directors from each participating center in addition to a member representing the residents who has the right to be present but not to vote
- Training year
  - Training period of 12 consecutive months
- Trainee
  - A person registered with SCFHS in a training program

## **Introduction:**

Pharmacists play a vital role in optimizing patient care in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. With the increasing need for qualified pharmacists as integral members of the patient care team, it became necessary to establish programs for the training of clinical pharmacists to keep pace with the needs of the health sectors in multiple disciplines in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

A clinical pharmacy training program was first introduced in 2001 which focused on the provision of pharmaceutical care.

The program started by enrolling seven trainees from seven training centers in the city of Riyadh. Due to the increase in demand, the number of centers was increased to become eight in Riyadh, two in Jeddah, and 1 in Dammam. The capacity has increased gradually to meet to the needs of the healthcare sectors bringing the number of accepted candidates in 2015 to 40 and the total number of trainees to 61 trainee. In 2013, a sub-specialty year was introduced to the 2 year program and the Saudi certificate program duration became 3 years. Additionally, a 2-year long general clinical pharmacy program diploma was introduced which is equivalent to a professional Masters.

The Clinical Pharmacy programs qualify trainees to work with the patient care team to deliver an integrated pharmaceutical care and medication therapy management for patients in different disciplines.

There is still a huge gap between the need for qualified and well-trained pharmacists and the current available resources, which the current scientific council is trying its best to minimize.

## Scientific Council of Pharmacy

The Scientific Pharmacy Council was first established in October 2001 under the auspice of the SCFHS. The main mandate of the scientific council was to introduce and administer the clinical pharmacy residency program. The current council is in its fourth term and the members of the Scientific Council are as follows:

	Name	Role	Hospital
1.	Ahmad Hamdan Al-Jedai	Chairman	King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre
2.	Ali Abdulaziz Al-Mitwazi	Deputy Chairman	Prince Sultan Military Medical City
3.	Abdullah Mohammad Al-Zahrani	Member & Chairman of Local Training Committee	Security Forces Hospital
4.	Abdulrazaq Shaikh Al-Jazairi	Member & Chairman of Examination Committee	King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre
5.	Hesham Saeed Aljadhey	Member & Chairman of Program Recognition Committee	King Saud University
6.	Majed Ibrahim Al-jeraisy	Member	King AbdulAziz Medical City-National Guard
7.	Ayedh Alrasheedi Alshamrani	Member	King Saud Medical City
8.	Amin Mesleh Almuhammadi	Member	King AbdulAziz University- Jeddah
9.	Hajed Mohamed Hashan	Member	Saudi Food Drug Authority
10.	Fahad Mohamed Alghareeb	Member	Ministry of Health
11.	Nada Suleiman Al-Qadheeb	Member	Ministry of Health
12.	Najwa Abdulkarim Al-ghamdi	Member	Ministry of Health
13.	Mohamed Eissa AbuShayga	Member	Security Forces Hospital
14.	Meshal Ayedh Almutairi	Member	Prince Sultan Military Medical City
15.	Abdulrahman Hussein Faqihi	Member	Ministry of Health

Several committees report to the Scientific Council:

1. Local training Committee
2. Examination Committee
3. Programs Accreditation Committee

### **Awarded Certificates:**

#### **A. Diploma Certificate in General Clinical Pharmacy (2 years duration)**

The diploma in general clinical pharmacy certificate is awarded upon fulfilling the following:

1. Successful completion of all rotations
2. Achievement of a passing score in the final exam as per SCFHS rules and regulations

The certificate is equivalent to a professional master degree and qualifies the graduate to be classified as a Pharmacist one after meeting other requirements set by the SCFHS.

#### **B. Saudi Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy (3 years duration)**

The Saudi Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy is awarded once the following are fulfilled:

1. Successful completion of all rotations
2. Achieving a passing score in the final exam as per SCFHS rules and regulations

The certificate is equivalent to a professional doctorate degree and qualifies the graduate to be classified as a consultant after meeting other requirements set by SCFHS.

### **Admission Requirements:**

To be admitted in the diploma or the certificate programs, the following criteria must be met:

- The candidate must be a Saudi citizen. The Council may accept non-Saudi applicants if there are no enough qualified Saudi

candidates. The percentage of non-Saudis shall not exceed 10% of all accepted candidates in the program.

- Bachelor degree in pharmacy, PharmD, or Master degree in clinical pharmacy
- Copies of certificates and academic transcripts
- Achieving a passing score in the admission exam
- Letter of intent
- Completed application form
- Commitment to paying training fees according to the SCFHS regulations
- A letter of no objection from employer if the applicant is employed

### **Admission Requirements to the bridging (3rd year) of the certificate program:**

To be admitted directly to the third year, the following criteria must be met:

- The candidate must be a Saudi citizen. The Council may accept non-Saudi applicants if there are no enough qualified Saudi candidates. The percentage of non-Saudis shall not exceed 10% of all accepted candidates in the program.
- Completion of the diploma program in general clinical pharmacy (PGY-1 Residency) or equivalent according to the annual announcement by the training department in the SCFHS.
- Copies of certificates and academic transcripts
- Letter of intent
- Completed application form
- Commitment to paying training fees according to the SCFHS regulations

- A letter of no objection from employer if the applicant is employed

## **Training Programs Description:**

### **1. General Clinical Pharmacy Diploma (2-years duration):**

The total duration of the program is 24 months. The program is divided into two parts; each part is 12-month long and starts on the first day of October of each year. After the successful completion of the first year, the resident is promoted to the second year.

#### **Objectives**

- Develop the necessary skills to perform duties in order to provide rationale, safe and cost-effective medication therapy management.
- Improve technical and professional knowledge through participation in the training programs offered in different areas of pharmacy practice.
- Develop in-depth experience that improves efficiency in practice of pharmacy and the provision of pharmaceutical care.
- Gain experience in different clinical specialties

#### **First Year**

The resident rotates in different pharmacy areas to acquire skills and knowledge in the field of hospital pharmacy. Each learning experience consists of five weeks. The first year includes several rotations in distribution areas, in addition to three clinical rotations and a 4-week annual leave. Training shall be provided in the following areas

- Ambulatory care



- Extemporaneous preparation
- Inpatient pharmacy
- Satellite pharmacies
- Sterile compounding preparations
- Supplies/Inventory
- Controlled drugs
- Drug Information
- Pharmacy administration
- Introduction to clinical pharmacy practice
- Two clinical pharmacy rotations

### **Second Year**

The resident must complete nine rotations successfully including six required rotations (5-weeks each) in the following areas:

- Internal medicine
- Infectious diseases
- Cardiology
- Critical care

The resident can repeat any of the required rotations as an elective only once. The resident must complete three additional elective rotations in the following specialties

- Nephrology
- Oncology & hematology
- Parenteral nutrition
- Solid organ transplantation
- Pediatrics
- Ambulatory care clinics

## **2. Saudi Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy**

The total duration of the program is 3 years. The program consists of a 2 year-long general clinical pharmacy training identical to the diploma

program, in addition to a 1-year sub-specialty training. The sub-specialty shall be one of the accredited sub-specialties by the Saudi council of pharmacy. The program in each accredited site shall be under the direction of a consultant pharmacist specialized in the area of training.

### **Objectives**

- To Provide advance training in the sub-specialty area with a goal of increasing the number of qualified practitioners in the area,
- To provide the experiences necessary for the future clinical practitioner development in various sub-specialty areas.

### **Contents of the program**

The trainee has to complete 9 rotations including 6 core and 3 elective rotations in the following sub-specialties:

- Internal medicine
- Nephrology
- Solid organ transplantation
- Oncology & hematology
- Infectious diseases
- Total parenteral nutrition
- Pediatrics
- Critical Care
- Cardiology

Three (3) elective rotations can be selected related to the specialty of the third year. Please refer to the detailed training manual.

### **Other Training requirements:**

In addition to providing pharmaceutical care and daily patient care, the resident in both programs shall demonstrate evidence of participating in the following activities:

- Teaching different health care providers including pharmacy students, trainees, nurses, medical students and residents.
- Supervising pharmacy students on clinical rotations under the supervision of the preceptor
- Presenting lectures and journal clubs under the supervision of the preceptor
- Submitting/presenting a finalized research project before the end of the residency program

### **Holidays and Vacations:**

The resident is eligible for the following vacations:

Annual leave: Thirty (30) days

Emergency/Eid holidays: Ten (10) days

Study leave: one (1) week

### **Requirements for Accrediting Training Centers:**

In order for a hospital to be accredited as a training center, general accreditation standards and requirements for the hospital and the program must be met. These are published in details on the SCFHS website. Specific pharmacy-related areas/requirements that must be available in the training site are summarized as follows (more information on the SCFHS website):

#### **Essential pharmacy sections/areas:**

- Inpatient Pharmacy
- Unit dose dispensing system
- Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
- Intravenous Solutions Division
- Supply Chain Management/Pharmacy inventory systems
- Controlled Drugs

- Drug Information Center
- Pharmacy Informatics and Automation
- Clinical Pharmacy

**Policies and Procedures:**

- The training site shall have an integrated electronic health - information system in addition to the following:
  - Detailed drug distribution policy and procedures
  - Continuously updated Drug Formulary
  - Drug inventory system
  - Antimicrobial Stewardship program
  - Narcotic drugs dispensing system.
- The training center should have the following functioning committees:
  - Infection Control
  - Medical Records
  - Quality Assurance
  - Pharmacy & Therapeutics
  - Patient Safety
  - Antimicrobial Utilization Committee

**Preceptors:**

The training center must ensure availability of adequate number of practicing pharmacists who meet the requirements set by the local training committee as preceptors. There are other requirements to be qualified as clinical pharmacy preceptor.

For more information, please refer to the residency manual and the SCFHS website.

**Residents' Evaluation:**

Enough number of qualified pharmacists in each accredited training center are responsible for training residents. The residency

advisory committee (RAC) is responsible for administering the program in each hospital

- After completing each rotation, the preceptor shall provide the committee with a written performance evaluation using the approved evaluation form
- The resident shall submit quarterly reports to the RAC in the hospital which in turns shall meet at least quarterly and discuss residents' progress
- The resident has to achieve a passing score on all rotations to be able to sit for the exam at the end of the second year and a final exam at the end of the third year in accordance with the SCFHS examination rules and regulations.

## **Epilogue**

The scientific Council of Pharmacy develops, administers, and oversees the implementation of 2 well-structured training programs in clinical pharmacy, namely the general clinical pharmacy diploma and the Saudi certificate in clinical pharmacy which provides opportunity for specialization in the last year. These training programs are designed to meet the highest standards of training set by local and international organizations.

## **Contact Information**

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