

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



المملكة العربية السعودية
الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات
الصحية
المجلس العلمي للصيدلة

Candidate Information for Clinical Pharmacy Residency Programs

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1. 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

2. Introduction:

Residency training program provides the trainees with knowledge and skills that are obtained through a systematic and practical learning method. It also provides the opportunity for inter-professional collaboration, instills personal and professional confidence, and broadens clinical decision-making abilities. Pharmacists play a vital role in optimizing patient care in collaboration with other healthcare professionals and works as advocate for the profession of pharmacy. With the ever 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 multiple disciplines within different healthcare sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The clinical pharmacy residency program was first introduced in 2001, and is focused on the provision of pharmaceutical care. The program started by enrolling seven residents 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, three in western province, and two in eastern province. In 2013, a sub-specialty (3rd) year was introduced to the 2-year program and the Saudi certificate program duration became 3 years. Sub-specialty residency training provides the candidate the opportunity to acquire special knowledge and skills and clinical decision-making abilities necessary for a clinical pharmacist in a specialty area. Additionally, a 2-year long general clinical pharmacy diploma program was introduced which became equivalent to a professional Masters. The capacity has increased gradually to meet the needs of the healthcare sectors bringing the number of accepted candidates in 2016 to 56 and the total number of residents enrolled in the program to 81 residents. There is still a huge gap between the need for qualified and well-trained pharmacists and the current available resources.

The general clinical pharmacy diploma program qualifies graduates to work with different patient-care teams to deliver an integrated pharmaceutical care and comprehensive medication management (CMM) for patients. The Saudi certificate in clinical pharmacy program qualifies graduates to work with specialty patient-care teams to deliver a specialized pharmaceutical care and comprehensive medication management (CMM) for specific patient population.

3. 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. 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:

- Local training Committee
- Examination Committee
- Programs Accreditation Committee

4. Awarded Certificates:

a. Diploma Certificate in General Clinical Pharmacy (2-year duration):

The diploma in general clinical pharmacy certificate is awarded upon the completion of all requirements and passing all exams during the program.

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

b. Saudi Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy (3-year duration):

The Saudi certificate in clinical pharmacy is awarded upon the completion of all requirements and passing all exams during the residency program.

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

5. Admission Requirements:

a. Admission requirements for diploma or the certificate programs:

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.
- The candidate should be a holder of Bachelor degree in pharmacy, PharmD, or Master degree in clinical pharmacy
- Candidates with master degree in clinical pharmacy with a minimum of 2 years duration and consist of a minimum of 6 months clinical rotations, and those who have post-baccalaureate Pharm.D. Degree can be admitted to the 2nd year directly once accepted by the SCFHS through the normal admission process, if they have a minimum of 3 years clinical experience post their last degree.
- The candidate should:
 - Complete application form
 - Achieve a passing score in the admission exam
 - Submit letter of intent
 - Submit copies of certificates and academic transcripts
 - Submit a letter of no objection from employer if the applicant is employed

- Be committed to paying training fees according to the SCFHS regulations

b. Admission Requirements for the bridging (3rd year) to 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 not 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 or equivalent according to the annual announcement by the training department in the SCFHS.
- The candidate should:
 - Complete application form
 - Achieve a passing score in the admission exam
 - Submit letter of intent
 - Submit copies of certificates and academic transcripts
 - Submit a letter of no objection from employer if the applicant is employed
 - Be committed to paying training fees according to the SCFHS regulations

6. Training Programs Description:

a. General Clinical Pharmacy Diploma Program (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 of the Program:

- Provide the necessary experience for the future advanced pharmacy practitioner to assume responsibility as a pharmaceutical care giver in various areas including but not limited to clinical, operational and administrative roles.
- Increase the number of qualified practitioners in different areas of pharmacy practice.

Structure of First Year:

The resident rotates in different pharmacy areas to acquire skills and knowledge in the field of hospital pharmacy. The resident must complete nine rotations successfully (5-weeks each) in the following areas:

- Ambulatory care
- Inpatient care rotation I
- Inpatient care rotation II
- Sterile preparation
- Administration
- Medication safety/ automation
- Drug information
- Introduction to clinical
- Internal medicine

Structure of 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
- Adult Critical care

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

- Ambulatory care

- Emergency medicine
- General pediatrics
- Hematology
- Nephrology
- Oncology
- Pain management
- Pediatric critical care
- Pediatric oncology
- Solid organ transplant
- Surgery
- Parenteral nutrition

Other Training requirements:

In addition to providing pharmaceutical care and daily patient care, the resident 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

b. Saudi Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy Program:

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 of the Program:

- Provide the necessary experience for the future clinical pharmacist to assume responsibility as a pharmaceutical care giver in various sub-specialty areas
- Increase the number of qualified practitioners in different areas of clinical pharmacy specialties

Structure 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
- Hematology/Oncology
- Infectious diseases
- Parenteral nutrition
- Pediatrics
- Adult critical Care
- Cardiovascular
- Drug Information

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 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

7. Vacations:

The resident is eligible for the following vacations:

- Annual and study leave: four weeks, unutilized vacation during the year cannot be shifted to the following year
- One official Eid holiday, this is subject to each site's policy and regulations
- Sick leave, maternity leave and emergency leave: this is subject to each site's policy and regulations in addition to the SCFHS regulation
- Scientific leave: The resident can be granted a scientific leave up to seven days per year to attend scientific conferences or seminars, subject to each site's policy and regulations in addition to the SCFHS regulation

8. Residents Evaluation:

- Rotation evaluation: At the end of each rotation, a rotation evaluation form should be completed by the preceptor.
- Preceptor/learning experience evaluation form: At the end of each rotation, a preceptor/learning experience evaluation form should be completed by the resident.
- Quarterly progress report: At the end of each quarter (3-month period) the residents should complete the quarterly progress report. The report should summarize the resident's performance on each aspect of the program
- The resident has to achieve a passing score on all rotations to be able to sit for the exams in accordance with the SCFHS examination rules and regulations.

9. Requirements for Accrediting Training Centers:

The training site should have the following standards and requirements:

- Accreditation by recognized hospital-accrediting agencies such as the Joint Commission, Accreditation Canada, or Saudi Central Board of Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions (CBAHI)
- Essential pharmacy sections/areas:
 - a. Controlled/narcotics medications section
 - b. Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee
 - c. In-patient/out-patient Pharmacy
 - d. Centralized and/or decentralized pharmacy utilizing unit dose system
 - e. Ambulatory care clinics
 - f. Drug & poison information center
 - g. USP 797/800 compliant sterile preparation/admixture area
 - h. Clinical pharmacy services
 - i. Drug formulary management system
 - j. Integrated electronic health - information
 - k. Updated policy and procedures related to:
 - Detailed drug distribution policy and procedures
 - Continuously updated Drug Formulary
 - Drug inventory system
 - Antimicrobial Stewardship program
 - Narcotic drugs dispensing system
 - l. Therapeutic drug monitoring
 - m. Parenteral nutrition support
 - n. Investigational Drug services/clinical research
 - o. Pharmacy informatics/automation
 - p. Medication utilization evaluation program
 - q. Adverse drug reaction program
 - r. Drug recall program
 - s. Antimicrobial Stewardship program
 - t. Comprehensive medication management (CMM)
 - u. Medication safety officer/quality improvement
 - v. Patient medication counseling

- w. Residents' office/desks
- Availability of Staff that are committed and determined to seek optimal patient care
- Commitment to apply the pharmaceutical care principles in day to day operations
- Availability of a minimum of 5 qualified preceptors
- Ability to provide a minimum of 70% of the total number of rotations

10. 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 program and the Saudi certificate in clinical pharmacy program which provides opportunity for specialization. These training programs are designed to meet the highest standards of training set by local and international organizations.

Contact Information

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