

**PHP 591 – Advanced Practice Experience: COASTAL MEDICAL, INC.**

**Ambulatory Care Longitudinal Rotation**

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Coastal Medical, Inc.

***Coastal Medical / URI Clinical Partnership  
Pharmaceutical Care in Private Physicians' Offices***

The clinical rotation at Coastal Medical is designed to offer highly motivated Pharm.D. students unique learning opportunities in an innovative private physician's group practice setting. In one of our 16 office locations throughout Rhode Island, students become actively involved in:

- direct patient care (adult and elderly ambulatory patients)
- patient interviewing
- collaborative practice with physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants
- disease state management (diabetes, hyperlipidemia, HTN, obesity, smoking cessation, asthma, HIV/AIDS)
- chart reviews to assess pharmacotherapy and screen for medication-related problems
- chart reviews to identify and flag patients who are candidates for pharmaceutical care
- assessments of drug therapy regimens for optimal outcomes
- design and monitoring of pharmacotherapeutic plans
- telephone follow-ups with patients who have medication-related questions or problems
- telephone follow-ups with community pharmacists who call the doctor's office with questions and/or patient problems
- provision of drug information to physicians and patients
- in-office follow-up of patients recently discharged from the hospital

Students meet with Dr. Melbourne individually and also participate in student group meetings. They review patient cases and discuss pharmacotherapeutics of common chronic disease states such as hyperlipidemia, hypertension, diabetes, asthma/COPD, HIV/AIDS, anticoagulation, GERD, allergic rhinitis, and pain management.

**What Students Gain by Completing the Coastal Medical Rotation:**

This rotation provides the opportunity for motivated students to take the initiative and challenge themselves to "go beyond expectations." Students see pharmacy from a very different perspective and gain tremendous insight into the practice of collaborative pharmacy and medicine! Students observe and eventually participate with clinical pharmacists who take care of patients under collaborative practice arrangements with primary care physicians. Students have full access to patients' medical records, they have direct experience with interviewing and counseling patients, they document clinical care via written SOAP/progress notes, and they communicate their ideas and suggestions with the patients' physicians and/or other healthcare providers. Students make an impact on the care of patients. Students

gain a sense of professional motivation that encourages them to pursue their goals in pharmacy practice.

Also during the rotation at Coastal Medical, students get a tremendous amount of feedback from the other preceptors. They are highly encouraged and guided to further develop multiple skills. Overall, students who complete the rotation at Coastal Medical develop clinical, professional, and personal skills in the context of an advanced practice experience. The rotation is in an innovative practice setting under the supervision of preceptors who are on the cutting edge of pharmacy practice.

### **About the Coastal Medical and the Pharmacy Care Management Program**

Coastal Medical, Inc. is a private medical group comprised of approximately 60 primary care physicians, with 16 distinct office practices located throughout Rhode Island. The offices offer Primary Care (Internal Medicine) in addition to specialized care in the areas of Cardiology, Pulmonology, Sleep Disorders, Infectious Diseases/HIV/Hepatitis C, Women's Health, and Pediatrics. The Coastal Medical corporate management and business office is located at 10 Davol Square, Providence, Rhode Island.

The Pharmacy Care Management Program is an integral component of Coastal Medical, whereby clinical pharmacists and pharmacy students are on site at the physicians' offices. They provide direct pharmaceutical care to patients, they serve as drug information resources, and they proactively review patients' medical records for potential clinical interventions. The physicians have welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with clinical pharmacists on the care of their patients, particularly patients with chronic illnesses and those taking multiple medications. The pharmacists are highly valued in the physicians' offices and help support the mission of Coastal Medical to be "the leaders in primary care."

Other activities of the Pharmacy Care Management Program staff include: publishing a bi-monthly newsletter containing important new drug information and cost-effective prescribing information for providers; conducting home visits for patients who are in need; and providing detailed information to providers on safe medication use and encouraging optimal documentation of medications. The pharmacists also meet one-on-one with the physicians, nurse practitioners, and physicians' assistants to review prescribing data and share suggestions for optimal medication use. The use of generic medications and formulary medications is promoted to enhance the cost-effectiveness of care.

#### Coastal Medical Offices (for student rotations):

Reservoir Ave (400 Reservoir Ave), Providence, RI  
Elmhurst (1075 Smith St), Providence, RI  
Crossroads (75 Sockanosett Crossroad)), Cranston, RI  
Greenville (7 Smith Ave), RI  
Middletown/Newport (850 Aquidneck Ave), RI  
East Greenwich (1352 South County Trail), RI  
Brex and Kurose (450 Veterans Memorial Parkway), East Providence, RI  
Bristol (652 Wood St), RI Preceptors

Dr. Anne VanHaaren, Director of the Pharmacy Care Management Program at Coastal Medical, Inc., is a preceptor for students on rotation at Coastal Medical. Email: [vancanals@cox.net](mailto:vancanals@cox.net)

The Coastal/URI Primary Care Resident is involved in precepting students on rotation at Coastal Medical.