

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

VA Palo Alto Health Care System

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

All applicants receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, non-disqualifying mental or physical disability, age (with authorized exceptions), sex, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor.

Vacancy Annc No. 04-313(AG)		Opening Date 10/05/2004	Closing Date 10/26/2004 or Until Filled	U.S. Citizenship Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (See notes below)
# Posns One	Position Title Pharmacy Technician (Clinical Pharmacy Technician)	PD Number 04091-0	Pay Plan, Series, Grade GS-661-7	
Service Pharmacy Service - Outpatient		Promotion Potential None	Salary Range \$39,949 - \$48,724 Per Annum	
Duty Station Palo Alto, CA		Tour of Duty Rotating Shifts, Includes weekends		
Work Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input type="checkbox"/> Intermittent <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time @ _____ hrs/wk		Subject to Bargaining Unit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes-Minimum posting: 15 work days <input type="checkbox"/> No-Minimum posting: 10 calendar days		Subject to Supervisory Probationary Period <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (First-time supervisors subject to 1 year)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary NTE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Term NTE _____		Subject to Drug Testing <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (See notes below)		Physical or Medical Examination Required <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (See notes below)
Travel and/or relocation expenses <input type="checkbox"/> are authorized <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are not authorized		Applicants currently serving under recruitment or relocation bonus service obligation must notify this office of the conditions of their agreement.		
		Relocation bonus <input type="checkbox"/> is authorized <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not authorized	Recruitment bonus <input type="checkbox"/> is authorized <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not authorized	
Area of Consideration - For information on application procedures, see section on 'HOW TO APPLY'				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All qualified, interested candidates.				
Point of Contact - Inquiries should be directed to the following individual at (650) 858-3951. Akiko Giordono, Human Resources Specialist				
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION				
This office provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify this office. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.				
THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTS A DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT				

***Review and referral of qualified candidates will be considered by close of business on 10/26/2004; and cutoff every two weeks thereafter or until position is filled/closed.**

DUTIES: Incumbent is the first line communication between department and patient, nurse and/or other medical staff to serve the patients' needs either over the phone or in person. He/she primarily performs clinical activities to support the ambulatory care clinics for multiple divisions, including the anticoagulation and general medicine clinics. Involves review of computer medication profiles for allergies, adverse drug reactions, polypharmacy; obtains and reviews laboratory reports for selected disease states and identifies patients with values beyond normal limits and notifies appropriate personnel; updates access database; documents activities via progress note; participates in quality assurance activities; processes consults; schedules patients and contacts patients who have missed appointments to reschedule; mails clinic letters to patients. He/she answers routine questions regarding availability of drugs and dosage forms stocked in the pharmacy and location and status of previously requested refills. He/she must triage patients with needs outside the scope of this position to the appropriate personnel. Independently problem-solves difficult refill requests and submits electronic progress notes to providers to request additional refills or new prescriptions. Informs a new patient on procedures to obtain new prescriptions, renew prescriptions, how to obtain refills through the mail program as well as general clinic procedures and appointment information. Advises patients or staff members on current prescriptions status (medication profile) as required. Forwards all identified problems and professional questions to the attention of a pharmacist. Incumbent is responsible for routine outpatient pharmacy technician duties as assigned. These duties include selection of medication, which may include controlled substances from the shelf and counting the correct number of medications or medical supplies as indicated on the order. Filling orders involves counting, prepackaging, reconstituting, measuring and selecting required medication items or components. Assists the pharmacist with the inventory control and dispensing of controlled substances. Enforces all security requirements for drug accountability and safety of section within clinic. Stocks clinic supplies.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Specialized Experience: One (1) year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-6 level in Federal service. The experience may have been gained in hospital pharmacies, retail pharmacies, or in pharmaceutical firms or laboratories. Experience must have provided a basic knowledge of: Pharmaceutical nomenclature; Characteristics, strengths, and dosage forms of pharmaceuticals; Pharmaceutical systems of weights and measures; and the Variety of procedures and techniques involved in the care, storage, repackaging, bulk compounding, and distribution of pharmaceuticals.

Substitution of Education for Experience: None

Time-In-Grade Requirement: Candidates for advancement to General Schedule (GS) positions in the competitive service must have completed a minimum of 52 weeks at the next lower grade level (GS-6) commensurate with the line of progression for this position.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: Appropriate credit will be given for voluntary participation in community, social service, and similar activities.

BASIS OF RATING: Your rating will be based on the quality of your experience as shown in your application and elements. Listed below are the knowledge, skills and abilities considered essential for successful performance in this position. These elements will be used to determine the highly qualified candidates to be referred to the selecting official. Provide, on a separate sheet of paper, a DETAILED description of your experience as related to the knowledge, skills and abilities listed below. Incomplete, vague, or contradictory information may affect your rating.

1. Knowledge of medication therapeutic classes, lab value monitoring, pharmacoeconomic principles/applications, drug utilization evaluations, medication side-effects, medical chart content and information location, patient counseling techniques.
2. Knowledge of and ability to apply medication policies and procedures, formulary medication, and medical/pharmaceutical terms, nomenclatures, systems, etc. (In the processing of prescriptions, unit dose orders and clinic medications.)
3. Knowledge of the laws, regulations and official policy concerning drug procurement, security, principles relating to controlled substances, and dispensing to conform with legal and professional requirements of pharmacy practice.
4. Ability to communicate effectively with diverse audience.
5. Knowledge of and ability to use computer software/programs (VISTA/CPRS, word processing, Excel and Access, etc.)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- ◇ **Funds Availability:** The position being filled is subject to the availability of funds.
- ◇ **Additional Vacancies:** This announcement may be used to fill additional vacancies occurring within 90 days.
- ◇ **U.S. Citizenship:** If applicable, non-citizens may be appointed when no citizens are available in accordance with regulations issued by the Under Secretary for Health.
- ◇ **Time-In-Grade Requirement:** Candidates for advancement to General Schedule (GS) positions in the competitive service must have completed a minimum of 52 weeks at the next lower grade level (or equivalent) commensurate with the line of progression for this position.
- ◇ **English Language Proficiency:** If applicable, individuals appointed to direct patient care positions must be proficient in spoken and written English as required by Title 38, United States Code (38 U.S.C.).
- ◇ **TB Skin Screen Test:** All applicants selected for employment with the VAPAHCS will be required to meet TB screening requirements before being placed into this position.
- ◇ **Physical / Medical Standards:** If applicable, candidates will be required to pass a physical examination.
- ◇ **Drug Testing Position:** All applicants tentatively selected for VA employment in a testing designated position are subject to random drug screen (urinalysis) for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Applicants who refuse to be tested will be denied employment with the VA.
- ◇ **Direct Deposit / Electronic Funds Transfer:** It is a policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs to require new employees to receive Federal wage and salary payment through Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer. On the first day of duty, new employees must bring their Social Security Card/Number, photographic identification card, and information regarding their financial institution.

HOW TO APPLY:

Employees of VAPAHCS - Submit VAF 10-2850c (Application for Associated Health Occupations) and Resume (optional), by the closing date of this announcement. Your responses to the factors listed under BASIS OF RATING above, must be received by the Human Resources office within 7 calendar days of the closing date of the announcement (Optional).

All others, submit:

1. **VAF10-2850c** - Application for Associated Health Occupations; and Resume.
2. **OF-306** - Declaration of Federal Employment. You must complete this form to determine your acceptability for Federal employment.
3. **DD-214** - Military Discharge Paper indicating the period of service and the character of discharge. If you are claiming veterans preference, you must submit a copy.

4. SF-15 - Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference. If you are applying for 10-point veterans preference, you must submit this form and the required documentation specified on the reverse of the SF-15.
5. SF-50B - Notification of Personnel Action. Transfer/Reinstatement applicants must submit a copy of their latest/last SF-50B.
6. College Transcript – If required for the position or substituting education for experience, you must submit a copy of transcripts.
7. Performance Appraisal - Current/Former Federal employees must submit a copy of their most recent performance appraisal.
8. On a separate attachment(s), describe your work experience/education as it relates to each of the factors listed under BASIS OF RATING above.

To receive consideration, all application materials must be postmarked or received in this office by the closing date. Any information not submitted with your original application will not be considered. Failure to submit the requested material and response to the rating factors may result in a lower rating in the evaluation process.

All application materials will become the property of the Human Resources Management Service and will not be returned, used for other positions, or duplicated once submitted.

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. 1719, use of postage-paid government agency envelopes to file job applications is a violation of Federal law and regulation. Applications mailed in postage-paid government envelopes, sent by Federal agency special courier services or submitted through Federal fax machines will not be considered.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO: VA Palo Alto Health Care System
Human Resources Management Service (05A)
3801 Miranda Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304