

# 1: Program Overview

## Goals

The overall goal of the General Practice Residency at the Lebanon VA Medical Center is to prepare the dentist to be better able to manage the oral health needs of a wide variety of ambulatory and hospitalized patients. More specifically, the dentist who completes the program will be able to:

1. Resident to act as primary care provider for patients providing patient focused multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care, emergency treatment, disease prevention, and maintenance. In doing so the resident will diagnose and treatment plan patients in a responsible and compassionate manner without compromise to ethics or morals. Treatment modalities to be used will encompass all dental disciplines and will encourage using advanced treatment modalities, all leading to improving the resident's competency and confidence.
2. Using sound clinical judgment, plan and provide multidisciplinary oral health care for a wide variety of patients including patients with special needs.
3. Manage the delivery of oral health care by applying concepts of patient and practice management and quality improvement that are responsive to a dynamic health care environment.
4. Function effectively and efficiently in the hospital setting as a member of the health care team working with dental and medical specialists, and general practitioners. This also includes developing the resident's familiarity with hospital administration, organization, protocol, and interrelationships between various hospital departments.
5. Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care. This includes using critical thinking, evidence or outcomes-based clinical decision-making and technology-based information retrieval systems.
6. Utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity in professional practice.
7. Understand the oral health needs of communities and engage in community service.

## **Description of the Program**

The Lebanon VA Medical Center General Practice Residency in Dentistry is designed to provide education and experience at the postdoctoral level to the recent dental school graduate. Patient care experience encompasses a wide range of patients. These include non-medically compromised as well as medically compromised patients, both ambulatory and non-ambulatory. The General Practice Residents provide comprehensive dental care to patients with emphasis on the diagnosis of oral and maxillofacial disease and the thorough assessment of patients' general health and functional ability. While the majority of patients are ambulatory outpatients, this hospital-based program also provides training in hospital protocol with experience in the administrative and clinical management of the hospitalized patient.

The dental resident will enhance his/her knowledge and skills in all phases of dentistry through clinical and didactic training. Advanced experience and knowledge is gained in all of the disciplines of dentistry such as endodontics, implants, oral surgery, periodontics, prosthodontics, and restorative dentistry. The clinical activities take place at the Lebanon VA Medical Center. The majority of the resident's time is spent at the VA dental clinic performing comprehensive dentistry on ambulatory outpatients with supervision from full and part-time faculty. The patients treated by the general practice residents often present with complex dental treatment needs that require expertise in many dental disciplines to appropriately diagnose and treat. These patients also have a wide range of medical conditions that need to be considered prior to treatment.

Training and experience in medicine and dental specialties is gained during off-service rotations such as Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine. The interaction during these rotations with physicians and other health care professionals in the hospital setting is a valuable experience.

The didactic portion of the program includes weekly and monthly seminars by VA faculty, webinars, and courses in advanced cardiac life support, physical diagnosis and conscious sedation.

## **2: Resources**

### **An Overview of the VA System**

The Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) manages the largest medical education and health professions training program in the United States. DVA facilities are affiliated with 107 medical schools, 55 dental schools and more than 1,200 other schools across the country. Each year, about 83,000 health professionals are trained in VA medical centers. More than half of the physicians practicing in the United States had some of their professional education in the VA health care system.

While providing high quality health care to the nation's veterans, the VA also conducts an array of research on some of the most difficult challenges facing medical science today. The

VA has become a world leader in such research areas as aging, women's health, AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues.

## **The Lebanon VA Medical Center**

Lebanon VA Medical Center is located in Pennsylvania Dutch country. It is one of 10 medical centers in VISN 4. The nine other facilities are Philadelphia, Coatesville, Wilkes-Barre, Altoona, Pittsburgh, Butler, and Erie in Pennsylvania, as well as Wilmington, Delaware, and Clarksburg, West Virginia.

VAMC Lebanon's main campus is located in South Lebanon Township, 3 miles outside the city of Lebanon and approximately 30 miles east of Harrisburg, the state capital, and 30 minutes from the cities of Hershey, Reading, Lancaster, and York.

Six Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) are located in Camp Hill, York, Reading, Lancaster, Pottsville, and Frackville, PA. Care is available to over 174,000 Veterans from nine growing counties in South Central Pennsylvania.

An outreach clinic is also available at Fort Indiantown Gap and administrative support is given to two Veterans Centers located in nearby Harrisburg and Lancaster and a National Cemetery located at Fort Indiantown Gap.

### **SERVICES**

Lebanon VAMC offers acute medical, surgical, behavioral health and long-term inpatient care and a full range of outpatient services including primary care, specialty care, home based care and psychiatric rehabilitation services. The recent addition of specialized diagnostic services (MRI and Nuclear Medicine) and the planned completion of the new Ambulatory Surgical Center enhances this ever growing, constantly improving facility

Lebanon VAMC provides acute medical, surgical, and behavioral health care utilizing 11 ICU beds and 38 acute beds. Inpatient hospice care is provided in 17 beds and also in Community Living Centers, (short stay and long stay) are provided to inpatients utilizing 79 nursing home care-like beds. A full range of home care and community services are provided including; Home Based Primary Care, Homemaker Home Health Care, Community Residential Care, Adult Day Health Care and Homeless Veteran Care.

Lebanon VAMC is a teaching hospital, providing a wide range of patient care services, using state-of-the-art technology, guided by ongoing education and research. Comprehensive health care is provided by dedicated staff. Lebanon is proud of the fact that one-third of its employees are Veterans. Its end of life programs, including an inpatient hospice unit, is considered a best practice within VA. The Visually Impaired Services Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR) program, unique to VA, provides a 10-day intensive rehabilitation program for the visually impaired.

### **AUTHORIZED BEDS**

49 Hospital  
79 Nursing Home  
63 PR RTP  
248 Total

**TYPE OF FACILITY**

General Medicine and Surgery

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

Inpatient Acute Medicine and Surgical Care  
Intensive Care – Medical and Surgical  
Acute Psychiatry Inpatient including Detox  
Telemetry  
Ambulatory Surgery/Surgical Procedure Clinic  
Primary Care  
Specialty Care/Clinics  
Dental  
Behavioral Health Outpatient  
Homeless Program  
Visual Impairment Services Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR)  
OEF/OIF Outreach and Treatment Services  
Nursing Home Care  
Nuclear Medicine  
Hospice  
Homemaker Home Health Care  
Hospital Based Primary Care  
Adult Day Health Care  
Community Residential Care  
Respite Care  
Recreation  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Home Medical Equipment (HME)/Home Oxygen  
HOPTel Services  
Prison Outreach  
Women's Health  
Transportation Program  
Volunteer Program  
Speech Pathology  
Substance Abuse Treatment  
Vocational Rehabilitation

**AFFILIATIONS**

The Lebanon VA Medical Center has a vibrant affiliation with the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine based at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Residency programs exist in Family Practice, Cardiology, Allergy, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Hematology/Oncology, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Pulmonary and General Surgery.

The Lebanon VA Medical Center provides 25.2 VA funded resident positions resulting in approximately 150 medical fellows and residents receiving training each year. In addition, the Lebanon VA Medical Center provides training to over 55 third and fourth year medical students from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. Lebanon VA Medical Center also maintains 106 other academic affiliations in a wide variety of disciplines

## **Dental Service**

Clinical dental activities are performed in the Lebanon VAMC Dental Clinic, which includes an Oral Surgery Suite and a fully equipped and staffed dental laboratory. The VA dental staff includes a full time oral surgeon, three full-time dentists, one part-time dentist, a part time periodontist and endodontist, two hygienists, three expanded functions dental assistants, seven dental assistants, one dental laboratory technician, one secretary, one receptionist, two general practice residency positions. Periodically dental hygiene and assisting students are present.

## **Library**

The residents have access to a medical library which is located within the VA hospital. Internet access and literature searches are readily available along with many print and electronic services and resources .

## **3: Didactic Curriculum**

The didactic program consists of a series of seminars, continuing education courses, conferences and individual instruction presented throughout the year. The didactic program includes:

### **General Medicine**

Knowledge and experience in general medicine is also gained during off service rotations and consults with physicians related to patient care.

Dental residents may also participate in conferences and seminars throughout the year include the following topics: heart diseases, pulmonary diseases, renal diseases and dialysis, liver diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, arthritis, neurologic diseases, endocrine diseases, allergy diseases, bleeding disorders and blood dyscrasias, oral cancer, behavioral and psychiatric disorders, organ transplantation and prosthetic implants.

### **Physical Diagnosis**

Residents, through service rotations early in the year, learn the techniques necessary to perform a medical history and physical examination. The resident will be able to understand and interpret the results of the findings obtained.

### **Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)**

All incoming residents are required to complete an ACLS course either before the program starts or during the first month. This training will enable the resident to better manage medical emergencies and establish accurate risk assessments.

## **Treatment Planning Conferences**

Residents and faculty present cases throughout the year to increase the residents' knowledge and skills in the management of complex patient cases.

## **GPR Seminar Series**

The residents attend seminars given by attending staff and specialists throughout the year. Seminars consist of lectures and training sessions to improve the residents' diagnosis and management skills in all phases of dentistry. The topics include: restorative and esthetic dentistry, dental materials, fixed and removable prosthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, occlusion, implants, medically compromised patients, hospital dentistry and practice management.

## **Webinar Series**

The residents participate in monthly webinars on various dental topics.

## **Literature Review Seminars**

Residents receive training in the evaluation of dental and medical literature and participate in an ongoing Journal Club. This training will enable the resident to better understand, interpret and judge the accuracy of articles, papers and material presented.

# **4: Clinical Experience and Training**

The residents' clinical experience includes the following:

## **Lebanon VA Medical Center Dental Clinic**

The residents spend a majority of their clinical time treating outpatients at the VA Dental Clinic. They provide comprehensive care to a wide range of patients, many of whom are medically compromised. There is an opportunity to treat patients with simple to very complex dental needs.

**Restorative Dentistry:** The resident will become proficient in using the latest techniques and equipment. A wide variety of the latest materials are available.

**Prosthodontics:** The resident will become proficient in performing routine to advanced procedures. This will include complete and partial dentures, fixed bridges, full mouth reconstruction and implant restorations.

**Endodontics:** The resident will become proficient using conventional and rotary endodontic techniques. Apico surgery is performed under direct supervision.

**Periodontics:** The resident will become proficient in the treatment of early to advanced periodontal disease. Periodontal surgery is performed under direct supervision.

**Implantology:** The resident will become proficient in the planning, surgical placement and restoration of uncomplicated implant cases.

Dental consultation and service is provided to inpatients and outpatients with a variety of medical conditions and dental needs. The patient population provides a very wide variety of cases to ensure the residents will be able to gain proficiency in all areas of general dentistry. Treatment is planned and provided without having to be concerned with financial limitations.

Attending staff is always available for consultation during all patient care activities.

## **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**

The Lebanon VA Medical Center is fortunate to have a full time board certified oral surgeon on staff. The residents will be involved with the treatment of patients in both the operating room and clinic. Residents will gain experience in all phases of oral surgery to include full mouth extractions, biopsies, impacted teeth and implant procedures, treatment of odontogenic infections, and operating room experience.

In addition to participating in a vast array of oral surgery they also receive training in the management of trauma and the management of inpatients and same-day surgery cases.

## **Emergency Dental Care**

There are numerous opportunities to enhance skills necessary to manage a wide range of dental emergencies. Residents see emergency patients daily at the VA Dental Clinic as well as during afterhours call.

## **Dentistry in OR experience**

The residents perform general dentistry in the operating room at the VA Medical Center. The residents will gain experience in the admission and discharge of patients, obtaining medical histories and conducting appropriate physical examinations, prescribing treatment and medications, providing dental care in the operating room, preparing the patient record including notation of pre and post operative orders, progress notes, descriptions of procedures and discharge summaries.

## **Pain and Anxiety Control**

Experience in the management of pain and anxiety is gained throughout the year at the VA Dental Clinic. The goal is to provide experience in a variety of modalities to allow residents to competently manage pain and anxiety (apprehension). The resident will gain experience through the use of behavioral management, local anesthesia and conscious sedation techniques

and will become knowledgeable of the indications, contraindications and potential adverse reactions of medication used.

## **Anesthesiology**

The residents spend two weeks assigned to the anesthesiology department at the VA Medical Center to learn principles and techniques of general anesthesia and operating room protocol. They gain skills and knowledge in airway management and monitoring of the unconscious patient along with preoperative evaluation, venipuncture and intubation techniques.

## **General Medicine**

Residents see patients under direct supervision in the General Medicine Clinic at the Lebanon VA. The resident will gain experience in obtaining the medical history and performing physical assessments of patients. The resident will be better able to recognize deviations from normal health and make accurate risk assessments.

## **Emergency Medicine**

The resident rotates through the Lebanon VA Emergency Medicine Department. On the completion of this rotation, the resident will understand an approach to the evaluation and management of common medical emergencies, with special emphasis on emergencies likely to present concurrently with dental procedures.

## **Community Dentistry**

Opportunities for the residents to become involved in off service clinical activities in community dentistry are available.

# **5: Programmatic Specifics**

## **Accreditation**

The General Practice Residency is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education.

## **Certification**

A certificate of completion is given by the Lebanon VA Medical Center for satisfactory completion of the twelve-month residency.

## **On-Call Responsibility**

On-call emergency care is covered by the residents of the VA GPR Program. After hours calls are rare.

## **Non-Discriminatory Policy**

It is our policy to fill vacancies by selection from the best-qualified applicants. There will be no discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, lawful political affiliation, marital status, non-disqualifying physical or mental handicap, age or membership in a labor organization.

## **Additional Information**

A list of goals and objectives of residency training is available on request.

## **Requirements for Application**

To apply, please provide the following documents:

The program's admission criteria include:

1. Be a graduate (DDS or DMD) of an ADA accredited dental school
2. Participation in National Match Program along with completed resident application VA form 10-2850b
3. Dental school transcripts, grade point average, and class standing
4. National board scores
5. CV, resume, or biographical sketch
6. Three letters of recommendation from dental school faculty
7. Photograph (optional)

The selection process is designed to be unbiased. All completed applications are considered for residency positions. The Residency Selection Committee will evaluate each applicant based on the above criteria and personal interview. Applicants are ranked in order based on the total score each receives. The applicants receiving the highest scores are offered residency positions.

The deadline for a completed application is October 15 of the year preceding requested appointment.

## **Requirements for Appointment**

To qualify for a position, an applicant must be a graduate of a U.S. dental school and must have successfully completed Parts I and II of the National Board Examination.

For additional information, please contact:

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