



***Residency Guide:  
Transitioning from Residency to Workforce***

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Compiled by the New Practitioners Forum Resident Advancement Advisory Group:  
Ashley Miller, Pharm.D.  
Kinjal Parikh, Pharm.D., BCOP  
Diana Park, Pharm.D.  
Ami Shah, Pharm.D.  
Amanda Woods, Pharm.D.

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## **I'm Finishing Residency — Now What?**

Congratulations! You have almost completed your residency training. The next few months will be busy with the conclusion of residency requirements, job searching, and preparation for the next stage of your career. ASHP has several resources available to help you make this transition. Every journey will be different, and below you will find helpful resources on licensing, board certification, work-life integration, and more. Although the timeline for preparing for your transition into the workforce will vary by practice setting and job position, here is a general guideline of the steps you will take in the coming months.



## Transforming Your Curriculum Vitae (CV)

When it comes to a CV, there are no true guidelines on what is right and wrong, but there are suggested general principles for your CV.

What To Do	What Not To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit your CV for review during the <a href="#">ASHP CV Review Program</a> during the fall or spring review cycle. Make sure formatting is the same throughout.</li><li>• Proofread, proofread, proofread!</li><li>• Use consistent text size and formatting.</li><li>• Use either chronological or reverse chronological order for each section, and be consistent.</li><li>• If completing a PGY1, keep student learning experiences and PGY1 learning experiences on CV. If finishing PGY2, keep only PGY1 and PGY2 learning experiences.</li><li>• Make your CV creative, but keep it professional.</li><li>• Include a header or footer with your name and the page number, in case pages are separated.</li><li>• Ask others to review your CV.</li><li>• Update your CV monthly. Your CV will forever be growing and changing, and it's easier to update monthly rather than annually.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not allow any typos, grammatical errors, or misspellings to appear in your CV.</li><li>• Do not use pictures and graphics.</li><li>• Do not use inconsistent formatting.</li><li>• Do not include experiences you cannot elaborate upon. Many interviewers will ask you questions about projects/positions, so make sure you can speak to each item on your CV.</li><li>• Do not be the only one to proofread your CV; instead, have multiple reviewers.</li></ul>

Reading to consider:

- Flannery AH, Winstead PS, Smith KM. Transforming the curriculum vitae as a new practitioner. *Am J Health Syst Pharm.* 2014; 71(24): 2115-7.

## **Job Search**

After you have reviewed your CV, you can move on to the job search. While completing a residency, some of us may decide to try to stay with the same organization. Spending one to two years in learning the organization and its staff may be an enticing opportunity to stay on-board. Most organizations will still require a job application, but the interview process may be a little less stressful when you and your interviewer are familiar with each other. Focus on putting your best foot forward and do not assume you will get the job over other candidates. It is also important to consider seeking job opportunities at other facilities. A different organization than those where you completed residency training may offer new opportunities to grow your experiences and to share your acquired knowledge with others.

### *Resources for assistance with job search*

Your best resources will be your professional network, which may include your residency program director, director of pharmacy, preceptors, co-workers, co-residents, and mentors. You have spent one or two years at your residency location; use your networking skills. Pharmacy is a small world, and the people you have spent a year with might have a colleague that is in need of a pharmacist or is in the process of creating a new pharmacist position.

ASHP resources for the job search process:

- [CareerPharm](#)
- [Virtual Career Fair](#)
- [Personnel Placement Service](#)
  - Register for PPS before searching the listed jobs
  - Request interviews to be held during the Midyear Clinical Meeting
  - Companies will also review applicants and extend interviews to candidates

## **Professionalism**

As you transition from residency to a career, many simultaneous changes may occur, including: a new city, a new organization, new colleagues, and a new income. You will face not only new responsibilities, but also new aspects of professionalism. As you approach your transition from residency life to the workforce, consider the following pearls related to professionalism:

- Discuss with mentors/past preceptors the suggested minimum time on the job before considering switching positions (internal move) or changing organizations (external move).
- Maintain rapport with management members and your colleagues; colleagues include both those inside & outside of the pharmacy department.
- Plan for how you want to prioritize patient care, project/committee, and precepting involvements. Consider discussing your priorities with your supervisor.
- Identify an organizational method to stay on top of deadlines, appointments, meetings, and staffing requirements
- Maintain professional social media accounts and keep your CV up-to-date
- Strive for a balance between work and personal life

Throughout your career, seek advisors and mentors who can help you identify your career path, navigate your transitions, and develop your goals.

## License Transfer

If you have found an out-of-state position, you will likely need to transfer your pharmacy license. Certain positions may not require new licensure (e.g., VA, pharmaceutical industry, government positions), while other positions within organizations that border state lines may require licensure in two states. If your site requires you to have a current pharmacist license, you should begin the process as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition. The best resource for information on license transfer and reciprocity is the state's board of pharmacy website. State boards of pharmacy become busy with new graduates in mid-May, so plan ahead and submit your application early. Keep in mind that every state is slightly different. It is important to review the state board of pharmacy website very closely before beginning the application process. The following is a general outline of how to reciprocate your license:

- Review the board of pharmacy website for the state in which you would like to transfer your license to determine that state's requirements for reciprocity.
- Ensure that your license will reciprocate to the state in which you wish to become licensed.
- Determine if you must take the law exam, appear in front of the state board, or complete any other requirements for reciprocity.
- Consider reaching out to your new employer for any resources to help you study for the law exam.
- Plan ahead for the costs involved, including fees for license transfer, the state board of pharmacy application, and the board exam.
- Apply for a license transfer through the [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy \(NABP\)](#).
- Gather information for the NABP application:
  - Demographic information
  - Pharmacy degree and date of conferral
  - Number of intern hours filed with any state board of pharmacy
  - Dates taken and scores for the NAPLEX and MPJE
  - Pharmacist license number and date acquired

NABP will mail you an application for license transfer, which you must fill out and send to the state board of pharmacy for the state in which you wish to become licensed. The state board of pharmacy will review your application and provide you with further instructions. Once your request for license transfer is approved, schedule your MPJE.

Additional resources:

- [Transferring Your License](#)
- [State Restrictions](#)

## **Moving**

If you are relocating, start looking at housing options as soon as possible. Consider the following during your search:

- What is your budget for rent or a mortgage?
- Will you need or want a roommate?
- What is included in the rent (e.g. water, electric, cable, Internet)?
- Will you move your own furniture or need a furnished apartment?
- If you have a pet, will this apartment complex or rental home accept your pets? Does this include a pet deposit or monthly fee for your pet?
- Is it possible to move yourself or will you require movers? Some moving companies charge a flat rate, some charge by the mile, and some can include a combination of both. Check for online rates or call the company to inquire about price estimates.
- Will your future employer assist with moving and relocation costs? Each organization will have a different policy regarding the amount of reimbursement, and human resources can likely answer any questions you may have.

## **Personal Finance 101**

Personal finance and money management are topics that often get pushed to the side during school and residency training. Regardless of whether you have been saving all along or are just thinking ahead to the future, taking a close look at your finances and savings plan is an essential step when entering the workforce. One common mistake when entering the workforce is to begin spending the higher salary you have earned before making a sound financial plan. Take time before your first paycheck to make a plan for your new salary that includes savings, debt management, and living costs. In reality, there is a lot to gain by taking control of your finances early on and plenty to lose by making uninformed decisions. If you wait too long to take action, you may miss out on possible tax benefits and savings opportunities. Below are a few financial topics to consider as you begin your transition into your second year. This information is not all-inclusive and is meant to provide a broad overview. You may want to consult a financial planner for your individualized financial needs.

### *Start Paying Off Debt Now*

Most of us have debt to some degree from credit cards, mortgage, car payments, and so on. If you are struggling to stay on top of your bills, it may be time to seek help managing debt before it gets out of hand. In addition to credit card debt, most of us struggle with repayment of student loans. This is one area where starting repayment early can shave thousands off your total debt. If you are considering going into public service or working at a not-for-profit hospital after residency, consider looking into the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\) program](#). Under this federal program, the remaining balance of certain loans may be forgiven after 120 on-time payments. The best part is, under most income-based repayment programs, you may pay as little as nothing and still have those zero payments count toward the requirement. Keep in mind that you may have to consolidate your loans into direct loans and be enrolled in a qualifying repayment plan to meet the requirements.

If you are not going into public service and a steady income is in your future, refinancing to lower interest rates with private loans may save you money in the long term. Please consult a professional or do your own research and calculations to see if this makes sense for you.

### *Start Saving for Retirement*

Most places of employment offer a retirement savings plan such as a 401(k) or 403(b) as part of the organization's benefits package. Contributions you make are taken out of your paycheck and may reduce your taxable income. Some employers offer a company match in which they match your contributions and pay a percentage of your contributions into your retirement fund. Try to maximize these contributions, as they are considered to be free money. Be aware, however, that company matching funds are not fully yours until you are vested or until retirement. Be sure to read the fine print or consult a financial adviser, especially during residency when you may stay at an organization for only one year.

When moving from one employer to another, don't forget to bring your 401(k) or 403(b) savings with you. Cashing out the funds is not a good idea, as you will have to pay large

penalties and taxes on the money you withdraw. Instead, consider shifting the sum into your new employer's retirement plan or rolling the funds over into an IRA.

### *Prepare for the Unexpected*

Unexpected events can have a huge impact on a budget and savings plan. Most employers will provide [individual professional liability insurance](#) in their employee benefits packages, but it is advisable to carry your own insurance to ensure that you are fully covered in the event of a lawsuit.

If you plan to get married, have children, or both, consider adding life and disability insurance to your personal portfolio. Life insurance is intended to provide financial support for your beneficiaries in the event of your untimely death. It pays for items such as funeral costs, co-signed loans, and shared debt. Disability insurance will replace a portion of lost income in the event you are unable to work for an extended period of time due to illness or injury.

Finally, you should also plan to have an emergency fund for all of life's unexpected events not covered by insurance. This cushion will allow you to cover items such as a broken water heater or a flat tire without having to dip into your retirement savings. Set aside enough to cover three to six months of your standard living expenses.

Before taking action, however, it is always advisable to consult with a certified financial planner or other financial adviser so that you can start on a plan that is tailored to your short- and long-term financial goals.

Additional resources:

- [IRS Tax Information for Retirement Plans](#)
- [Seven Financial Steps for Young Professionals \(Forbes\)](#)
- [Guide to Buying Life Insurance at Every Stage of Life](#)

### *Insurance and Benefits*

Starting a new job often involves orientation and paperwork. When you are completing your new hire enrollment, take time to research and understand your organization's insurance and benefits offerings. In most cases, the initial selections you make during benefits enrollment will be locked in until the next open enrollment period. Consider the following during your benefits enrollment:

- How much insurance do I need?
  - Many employers offer a variety of insurance options. Some benefits may be partially or entirely paid by your employer, such as life insurance and disability coverage. Other benefits may be offered by your employer for you to purchase, such as critical illness insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, and hospitalization insurance. Choosing how much insurance you

need is often a personal decision based on the amount of risk you are willing to assume and how financially prepared you are with personal savings to cover an unfortunate event. It is advised to consult with a financial planner to decide which insurance options are best for your individual situation.

- Which health plan is best for me?
  - Many companies will offer employees a choice of health plans. Plans often range from those with lower premiums and higher cost when seeking medical services to plans with higher premiums and lower cost when seeking medical services. Depending on your overall health and anticipated use of healthcare, you may decide that you would prefer to pay less up-front in premiums but then pay more if you were to get sick and need healthcare.
  
- When in doubt, ask your human resources department.
  - Each organization's benefits package is unique, so make sure you ask your human resources department if you have any questions about the options available to you and your financial obligations under your health plan.

## **Overview of Continuing Pharmacy Education**

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is a national agency for the accreditation of continuing pharmacy education (CPE). The [ACPE website](#) lists a directory of accredited CPE providers.

CPE requirements vary by state, and it is advised that you review pharmacist CPE requirements on the individual state board of pharmacy websites. Some factors to consider when creating a calendar or schedule for your required CPE include:

- State-specific CPE requirements and deadlines.
- Whether CPE is offered within your organization.
- The amount of funds available from your organization for CPE.
- The cost of CPE programs.
- The various CPE offerings from local, state, and national professional organizations.

[ASHP's CPE catalog](#) is a great resource for identifying various CPE opportunities, including [free CE activities](#). When registering for CPE programs, you will need to provide your NABP e-Profile ID and date of birth.

[CPE Monitor](#) is an online system for pharmacists to track CPE credits from ACPE-accredited providers. Once you complete your CPE, you have 60 days from the date of the CPE to submit a claim to the CPE provider (though you should always take note of the deadline, because some providers may indicate a deadline earlier than 60 days). Once you submit your claim, the CPE provider will forward the information to ACPE, and ACPE will submit the data to NABP. You can retrieve your CPE information from your CPE Monitor transcript.

## **Board Certification**

Your residency was only the beginning of your education. Additional opportunities for advancing your education after residency include the following:

### *Board Certification Programs*

[Obtaining specialty board certification](#) demonstrates your skill competency and commitment to professional excellence. You can obtain board certification in a variety of practice areas, including oncology, psychiatry, pediatrics, critical care, nuclear pharmacy, nutrition support, ambulatory care, and pharmacotherapy. Certification requirements vary by specialty area but typically include having a current license to practice pharmacy, one to two years of residency training from an ASHP-accredited program or equivalent work experience, and a passing score on the certification exam. There are two testing cycles for board certification: Spring (April-May) and Fall (September-October).

### Why become Board Certified?

- Obtaining board certification is one way to validate your specialized training and competency in a specialty area.
- Jobs in pharmacy specialty areas are becoming increasingly competitive; board certification may set you apart from other candidates.
- Board certification can be a tool to help you negotiate salary.
- The process of studying for the board certification exam will help you stay current on national guidelines and practice areas.
- Recertification programming may also count toward continuing education credits.
- There are additional costs associated with board certification and recertification (every seven years), including exam costs, study materials, and live review courses.
- To pass the board certification exam, you will need to dedicate time to study and review the recommended materials.

If you are considering board certification, plan to take the exam during or immediately after completion of your ASHP-accredited PGY1 or PGY2. Some organizations may provide funding or incentives to assist residents seeking board certification.

### Additional resources:

- [Board of Pharmacy Specialties](#)
- [ASHP Career Transitions](#): Click the **New Practitioner** tab for information on board certification and helpful study guides.
- [ASHP Certification Resources](#)

## Precepting and Teaching

Precepting and teaching are often incorporated into many pharmacists' roles. Pharmacists can be tenured faculty members, split faculty clinical pharmacists, or clinical pharmacists at sites with student and resident training where involvement is encouraged or required. Below is a comparison for tenure track and non-tenure/clinical track faculty members:

<b>Comparison of Tenure vs. Non-Tenure/Clinical Track Positions</b>		
	<b>Tenure Track Faculty Member</b>	<b>Non-Tenure/Clinical Track Faculty Member</b>
Didactic Teaching	Required to develop and deliver lectures	Required to develop and deliver lectures
Experiential Teaching	Minor to no expectation for experiential teaching	Required to participate in experiential teaching
Research	Large expectation to perform original research studies that are supported through grants	Minor expectation and is often completed in the clinical setting in collaboration with other healthcare providers
Scholarship	Large expectation to publish results of original research studies	Minor expectation and may include original research, case reports, and review articles
Service	Required services experiences, which may include serving on local and national committees	Required service experiences, which may include serving on local and national committees
Reporting Structure	Full employee of the school of pharmacy	Can be full employee of the school of pharmacy or split position between the school of pharmacy and local pharmacy or hospital
Contract Period	Longer contract period, generally up to five years	Shorter contract period, generally one year

Clinical pharmacists may have variable involvement in didactic teaching, research, and scholarship based on their practice site. The extent to which a clinical pharmacist participates in experiential teaching and service may reflect the affiliation agreements and relationships that the employer has with academic institutions and the community.

Additional Precepting Resources Include:

- [Overview of Precepting](#)
- [You and Your Students](#)
- [Starting a New Student Rotation](#)
- [Developing Your Precepting Skills](#)
- [Preceptor's Playbook: Tactics, Techniques & Strategies](#)
- [Preceptor's Handbook for Pharmacists](#)

### **Post-Residency Research**

Precepting students and residents is a great opportunity to stay involved in research beyond your residency years. The [ASHP Foundation's New Investigator Research Grant](#) supports practice-based research, conducted by pharmacist new investigators and related to advancing pharmacy practice. A pharmacist new investigator is defined as a new researcher within five years of completion of his/her terminal degree or postgraduate training and has had no more than two externally funded research projects as a principal investigator. Involvement in research may lead to the presentation of research results at specific conferences related to your area of interest.

### **Peripheral Brain/Document Library**

The demands of each job are unique. In the midst of a busy day, it is valuable to have quick access to evidence-based documents that can be helpful to you, the healthcare team, and patients. As you go through residency, it is important to collect and file documents that you often refer to or use for support of clinical decisions. You can also keep a list of important references that you may need for clinical scenarios that may recur. The document library that you assemble and grow over time will serve as a peripheral brain to allow you quick access to facts and evidence that you may not readily remember.

Note that organizational guidelines, policies, or drug information resources may differ between organizations. Make note of these differences if you are beginning employment at a different organization after residency. If any algorithms or policies have been clinically relevant to your practice as a resident, consider taking them with you for your use as a new practitioner. Always be mindful of copyright laws and proprietary information when taking or sharing organizational documents.

Keep in mind that some important resources are available only in textbook form. You may want to confirm that your organization carries important print references.

The documents that you gather in your document library/peripheral brain will vary based on your practice setting and specialty. Consider keeping key clinical trials, guidelines specific to your practice area, commonly used dose adjustments, a list of drug-drug interactions for medications commonly used in your practice area, and patient handouts you often use in education. Examples of important documents for a clinical oncology pharmacist may include the following:

- The CLOT trial regarding anticoagulation for VTE in cancer patients
- ASCO guidelines on chemotherapy dosing in obesity and GFR capping
- IDSA guideline on febrile neutropenia

- Cancer treatment and prevention specific NCCN guidelines
- Supportive care recommendations for growth factors and nausea/vomiting from NCCN guidelines
- Articles on chemotherapy sequencing

These documents will serve as valuable references for your practice and will also be useful as you become a preceptor who shares references with your learners.

### **Getting Involved with ASHP**

There are many opportunities to get involved with ASHP, including the following:

- [ASHP Connect](#) offers opportunities to connect with fellow practitioners and to share ideas about practice related topics. Using the ASHP Connect blogs and discussion boards can help you gather knowledge and advice from pharmacists across the nation.
- You can also use ASHP subscriptions, such as the [ASHP Daily Briefing](#), to stay up-to-date on relevant pharmacy news and developments.
- ASHP offers opportunities for mentorship through the [Mentor Match](#) program. Using the program, you can seek out mentoring relationships where you are the mentee, mentor, or both.

For new practitioners, there are many resources and networking opportunities within the [New Practitioners Forum](#). Becoming involved with [ASHP Pharmacy Practice Sections](#), being a [Practice Standard Reviewer](#), and participating in the [ASHP CV Review Program](#) are all excellent ways to contribute to ASHP and the profession of pharmacy. If you are interested in leadership opportunities, consider applying for an appointed position within ASHP. There are opportunities to advise the New Practitioners Forum through appointment to an [Advisory Group](#). Each Advisory Group consists of new practitioners who focus on the unique needs of new practitioner members and how ASHP can meet these needs. The ASHP president-elect appoints members to the New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee and the ASHP councils and commissions. The [Executive Committee](#) is comprised of the chair, vice chair, and three members. A designated New Practitioner seat is offered on each of the [ASHP councils and commissions](#).

## **Getting Involved Professionally**

As you transition from residency training to the workforce, it is important for you to reflect on your professional involvement with local, state, and national organizations. Volunteer involvement with professional organizations is an important aspect of a professional growth and development plan. Recognize that time and resources may be limited. The best way to start is to determine which organizations will foster your professional growth and allow you to achieve both your short-term and long-term career goals. Below you will find a list of questions and topics to consider as you navigate this decision process:

- Which organizations are available in my specialty area?
- Do these organizations have interprofessional membership?
- What committees and leadership roles can I become involved with as a new practitioner?
- Does this organization host annual meetings? If yes, will the programming be applicable to me in my future practice?
- What publication opportunities are available? Can I participate in peer-review opportunities?
- How does this organization foster networking among members?
- What educational opportunities are available outside of annual meetings? Will this programming be applicable to me as a new practitioner?

In addition to membership in local and national organizations, there are many ways to stay involved within your organization. Consider participating in committee work that will impact patient care and pharmacy practice in your organization. You can also volunteer to provide education to other healthcare professionals in your organization by offering a CE presentation or writing a newsletter article on a pharmacy topic. By working to help your organization, you can challenge yourself to continue to grow professionally while having an impact on your colleagues and patients.

## **Policy and Advocacy**

The profession of pharmacy is continually evolving. Policy decisions at the local, state, and national level all have profound effects on the practice of pharmacy and how we as pharmacists can use our extensive medication knowledge to care for patients. It is important to become familiar with pharmacy legislation in your state. There are many ways to get involved, including writing to legislators, hosting a site visit for legislators, or simply talking with colleagues and administrators at your practice site about advocacy and policy issues affecting pharmacists. Consider becoming involved in your local or state affiliate's policy initiatives while completing your residency. ASHP is involved in multiple advocacy priorities, many of which can directly impact you as a resident.

Additional resources:

- [ASHP's Advocacy website](#)
- [ASHP's Grassroots Network](#)
- [ASHP State Affiliate Policy and Advocacy Efforts](#)
- [ASHP's Virtual House of Delegates](#)

## **Evaluation Preparation**

Evaluations continue after residency is completed. Once you are on the job, there are different types of evaluations that either you will go through or, if a supervisor/manager, that you will conduct for others. Some organizations conduct new employee evaluations after a set period of orientation time has passed; subsequent employee evaluations occur at regular intervals specific by the organization. Evaluation time periods also differ from organization to organization; some organizations choose to evaluate its employees on the employee's anniversary date, while other organizations choose an annual evaluation period for all employees regardless of his/her hire date. Goals can be a combination of organizational, departmental, and personal goals. There may be annual performance goals or metrics in the evaluation, and there may also be individual goals regarding quality improvement projects or other contributions to the team.

After residency, no one is requiring you to evaluate yourself on a monthly basis, so you should consider methods and opportunities to routinely self-evaluate. Consider a quarterly update to capture the presentations you gave, students or residents you precepted, and significant interventions you made for a patient or as a part of the patient care deem. Keeping updated documentation throughout the year allows you to not only be prepared for your evaluation, but also to exert continuous readiness to share your accomplishments with others.

## Work-Life Integration

We can *have* it all, we just cannot always *do* it all. Here are some pearls to consider when combining work and personal in a way that is both manageable and fun.

- Work
  - Become a content expert in your field/job description
  - Ask lots of questions (remember the adage about no stupid questions?)
  - Accept new challenges or opportunities that may be outside of your job description; just make sure you are completing all of your assignments too!
  - Create to do lists to help you see all projects to be completed
  - Allot certain amounts of time to each project
  - Remember to work smarter, not harder
  - Professional development is a marathon, not a sprint
- Life
  - Socialize with your new co-workers by having lunch or dinner together
  - Survey your co-workers to see what they do outside of work to relax.
  - Find group exercise classes or an intramural sports team
  - Identify a place to worship and get involved with your religious community
  - Invest in developing a new skill or hobby, such as taking foreign language classes or learning how to make sushi.
  - If you like the outdoors, find outdoor adventure guides.
  - Connect with people through organizations that you belonged to in undergraduate and pharmacy school. Some of these organizations have alumni groups all over the country.