



# Pharmacy Internship 2025







# About Bendigo

With a population of over 114,000, Bendigo is a thriving regional city located only 150km north west or 90 minutes to the city of Melbourne. It is a city with attributes of urban metropolis, and the benefits of living in regional Australia. Bendigo provides a strong supportive community base with good schools and excellent infrastructure. Fantastic restaurants, shops, cultural precincts, sporting facilities and tertiary facilities make our city a great place to live and work.

Bendigo has an abundance of dining – from hatted restaurants and fine dining, to pubs and café culture. We have a world-class stadium – including the show court arena for major sporting events and over 50 sports fields. Bendigo offers everything from football and soccer to netball and basketball; rugby and cricket to baseball and self-defense; badminton and tennis to rowing, mountain bike riding, hockey, lacrosse, futsal and everything in between!

With the Ulumbarra and Capital theatres, Bendigo hosts many live shows and concerts. We also host many music festivals including Groov'n the Moo, as well as cultural festivals including Illumin8 – festival of light and peace, and the Bendigo Easter Festival – the longest running community cultural festival in Australia. Rich in Chinese history, the festival first began in 1879. Regional rent and property prices are significantly lower – making the cost of living more affordable than in the city. Plus, you only need to travel minutes, rather than hours to and from work.



# About Bendigo Health

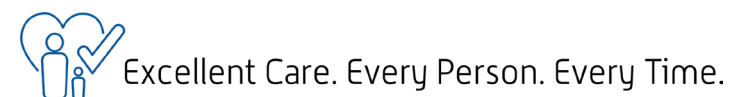
With more than 5,000 staff and volunteers and covering an area a quarter of the size of Victoria, Bendigo Health, is an expanding regional health service offering the advantages of city life combined with the beauty and freedom that comes from living in a regional area.

Bendigo Health is a 700 bed service that treats more than 45,000 inpatients, triages more than 65,000 emergency attendees and welcomes more than 1,600 new born babies in a year. In addition more than 15,000 operations are performed in our operating theatres and more than 100,000 occasions of services are provided in our clinics to outpatients.

The organisation provides services in emergency, maternity, women's health, medical imaging, pathology, rehabilitation, community services, residential aged care, psychiatric care, community dental, hospice/palliative care, cardiology, cancer services and renal dialysis to the people of the Loddon Mallee region.

With our main campus based in Bendigo, our services extend throughout the Loddon Mallee with sites in areas such as Mildura, Echuca, Swan Hill, Kyneton and Castlemaine.

Demand on services is increasing rapidly with Bendigo being one of Victoria's fastest growing regional cities.





# Pharmacy Department

Bendigo Health Pharmacy Department provides services to the Bendigo Hospital. This includes clinical services to all inpatient wards including Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, ICU, Emergency, Mental Health, Rehabilitation, Palliative Care, Maternity, Paediatrics, Renal and Oncology, as well as outpatient pharmacy services. We currently have 38 pharmacists (33 EFT), 12 technicians (9 EFT) and three intern pharmacists providing service seven days a week.

We have a complete Electronic Patient Record (ePR) with electronic medication charts, medication management plans and clinical notes, along with CHARM for chemotherapy prescribing. The ePR is integrated with newly implemented Pyxis machines across inpatient wards, greatly enhancing medication safety and stock control. We also have a ROWA robot in the pharmacy. As a department we play a significant role in the development and training of students, graduates and staff through placements, lectures and various education activities.

There are many career opportunities awaiting you as the delivery of our clinical pharmacy services is rapidly expanding, with multiple new pharmacist roles being established in the past year. We offer a supportive and friendly environment for all.





# Internship Program

**The Intern Training Program (ITP)** is designed to provide our interns with not only a sound and comprehensive training in pharmacy practice but also the provision of both an efficient and accurate pharmacy service.

**The Intern Foundation Program (IFP)** is also offered to interns, which includes activities such as: feedback from ward based activities, a research project, educational presentations and aseptic technique training and provides you with Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice at the end of your intern year.

As our intern, you will be rotated through the range of areas as detailed below:

## Rotations

**Clinical Services:** A comprehensive orientation and training program awaits you in the provision of ward based pharmacy services. This includes medication reconciliation, clinical overview of medication charts and knowledge of clinical protocols, therapeutic drug monitoring, clinical meetings and working as part of multidisciplinary teams. Throughout the year, you will rotate through all ward areas including Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedics, Psychiatry, ICU, GEM, Rehab, Cardiology, Emergency and Oncology. You will also see an overview of drug use evaluation exercises to ensure appropriateness of therapies, such as the restricted antibiotic usage via the IDEA3S program.



**Dispensing:** In our dispensary you will be involved in all processes of inpatient, outpatient and discharge dispensing. This will give you an understanding of the principles of dispensing and the ability to identify patient needs. You will assist with counselling, preparation and provision of medication profiles tailored for specific individual patient needs.

**Education and training:** You will have the chance to observe, then present our outpatient and nursing education program such as the cardiac rehabilitation talk. The presentation is part of a wider education program and focuses on commonly used cardiac medications and the importance of medication compliance. We also provide in-service education activities to wards, new rotating doctors and community groups.

**Medication Safety:** An area in our department, responsible for the quality use of medicines with a patient safety focus. This includes performing departmental and organisational audits, contributing to the Medication Safety Newsletter, reporting to Therapeutic Goods of Australia, updating hospital policies and health promotion.

**Manufacturing:** You will have the opportunity to learn, practice and become competent in aseptic preparation including chemotherapy, and will play a major role in our rapidly growing area of non-sterile manufacturing.



**Stock control:** You will spend time with the technicians to learn about ordering, receipting orders, inventory, stock usage and recall processes.

**SAS drugs/Clinical trials:** You will have the opportunity to learn and understand the responsibilities of such programs required of trials and SAS drugs.

**Preceptor & Mentor:** Each intern has a preceptor and mentor who are there to guide and support you through your internship. Mentors are pharmacists who recently completed their internship and help support you with settling into work and exam practice.



# Study

**Tutorials:** We are committed to your education and provide a comprehensive training program, with input from all pharmacists to ensure you get the most out of your ITP. Tutorials are run once or twice a week (for approximately 1 hour) and are matched up with topics from your intern training program. They differ in format with some requiring you to present information to the pharmacist (summary tables, and presentation PowerPoints), whilst others remain true to the question/answer format. During tutes, there are many questions to help you prepare for your final end of year exams. The topics are reviewed each year based on previous intern feedback and titrated to the interns interests and needs.

**APC Written Exam Preparation:** Written examination preparation starts early, with multiple choice questions frequently included in tutorials and dedicated Law, PBS and Calculations tutorials. You will also be provided with an array of practice exams to prepare for the APC exam. Work time will be allocated to this, including one hour multiple choice questions.

**Oral Exam Preparations:** Preparation for your oral examination starts with your very first tutorial. Leading up to the exam your tutorials will become oral exam preparations. Over the two months prior to your exam, we create a roster with a variety of different pharmacists in the department so you can practice an oral exam with different pharmacists each week. To make your learning experience more rounded, we are also fortunate enough to have great relationships with our community pharmacists and one of them comes along to help with the mock examination process—providing you with additional primary health care advice and input.



# Intern Tutorial Roster 2024

Tuesdays 2-3pm

Date	Tutorial Topic	Pharmacist
05-Jan	Intern Year Tips & Tricks	Sam/Rob
11-Jan	Hypertension & Dyslipidaemia	GP
18-Jan	Medicines Information	Caillan
25-Jan	OTC Tutorials Introduction	Amanda
01-Feb	Heart Failure	Emma + Mel
08-Feb	Acute Coronary Syndrome	Chris
15-Feb	<b>Seminar #1</b>	<b>XXXX</b>
22-Feb	Arrhythmias & Anticoagulation	Rob
01-Mar	Analgesia and Palliative Care	Anita
08-Mar	Glaucoma & Eyes	Trevi
15-Mar	Respiratory	Monet
22-Mar	Electrolytes, Pathology & Lines	Mel
29-Mar	Liver / Gastrointestinal	Sam
4-Apr (TUES)	Parkinson's Disease	Fiona
12-Apr	<b>EASTER</b>	<b>XXXX</b>
19-Apr	Renal Function & Failure	GP
26-Apr	Oncology Fundamentals	Patrina
03-May	Antimicrobials	Mel
10-May	Women's Health3	Annie
17-May	Psychiatry 1	Jess
24-May	Paediatrics	Yvette
31-May	<b>Seminar #2</b>	<b>XXXX</b>
07-Jun	Psychiatry 2	Jess
14-Jun	Diabetes	Ya
21-Jun	Psychiatry 3	Jess
28-Jun	Pharmacy Law/PBS - exam prep	Mel
05-Jul	Vaccinations	Annie
12-Jul	Opioid Substitution Therapy	Chris
19-Jul	<b>Seminar #3</b>	<b>XXXX</b>
26-Jul	Calculations #2	Mel
02-Aug	OTC Revision	Trevi



# Previous Intern Pharmacists

Pictured below are three of our pharmacy interns from the last three years who currently work at Bendigo Health as Clinical Pharmacists:



**Sophie Hood**



**Rob Woolridge**



**Bella Wade**

# Contact

For more information about the Pharmacy Intern Training Program at Bendigo Health, please contact:

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