



# Ambulatory Care Practitioner Spotlight

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Molly Lehmann (Obermark), PharmD is an ambulatory care PGY-2 Clinical Pharmacist Resident at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. The Madison VA outpatient clinics provide primary care as well as a wide variety of medical subspecialty care for veterans throughout Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Residents co-manage patients as part of an interdisciplinary team in a practice that has evolved over the years, allowing pharmacists to practice at the top of their scope. In addition to completing patient appointments, residents write progress notes for patients they assess and (in collaboration with preceptors)

have authority to write prescriptions, order laboratory and other diagnostic tests, consult other services when indicated, and develop therapeutic and monitoring plans for patient follow-up, within a scope of practice. Additionally, pharmacists are involved in formulary management, leadership, policy development, and medication distribution, among other roles. Dr. Lehmann developed an interest and passion for patient care activities related to ambulatory care pharmacy starting through her academic and professional experiences as a student at Drake University. She finds the role of the pharmacist in ambulatory care to be very unique and specialized; fulfilling this role is a true passion of hers. From her experience, when pharmacists use their knowledge to educate patients about medications while providing encouragement and shared decision-making through motivational interviewing, positive changes in patients' health, satisfaction, and confidence is more likely to follow. Balancing this combination of pharmacotherapeutic knowledge and interpersonal communication skills is delicate but exciting. Dr. Lehmann describes the opportunity to serve those who have served our country as an exceptional honor and privilege. She hopes that ambulatory care at all facets would include scopes of practice, similar to the model within the Veterans Health Administration, allowing pharmacists' autonomy in practice and further inclusion into the patient-centered care team. Keep up the great work Dr. Lehmann!



To learn more about Dr. Lehmann and her current position, please email her directly at [molly.obermark@va.gov](mailto:molly.obermark@va.gov).