

CPA Rising Pharmacist Spotlight: March 2021

Name and title: Erin Emonds, PharmD

Current position: Home Based Primary Care Clinical (HBPC) Pharmacist

Years in practice: Almost 3 years in clinical practice – Completed a PGY-1 Residency at UConn Health Center and a PGY-2 Geriatric Residency at VA Boston Healthcare System

Inspiration to practice pharmacy: Fortunately, I have had great pharmacy mentors throughout my life, including UConn Professor Dr. Jill Fitzgerald. These mentors introduced me to the profession of pharmacy and I was immediately drawn to the direct patient care opportunities. I strive to have a positive impact on patient's lives through disease state education, medication management, and building lasting relationships with patients and their caregivers. Pharmacy is the perfect career path to serve my community and improve the health of others.

Proudest accomplishment: COVID-19 required the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) team at VA Boston to eliminate unnecessary home visits and put urgency behind our mission to provide safe, reliable, continuous care. A team of two pharmacists and I (still in my PGY-2 Geriatric Residency at the time) identified activities that could be managed remotely in order to provide safe medication management to Veterans throughout the pandemic. We developed a pharmacist-led blister packing program, modeled off of Holyoke Health Center's program that I gained experience working at as an APPE student in 2017. Now, I am proud to say the pharmacist-led program, originally created as a temporary COVID-19 contingency plan, has become a permanent part of the VA Boston Pharmacy. We currently serve over 170 patients and fill over 650 trays of medication per month. The program also frees up nursing time in the home so they can spend more time on clinical tasks and provide safer medication management. Most recently the Boston VA Pharmacy expanded the panel size and enrollment for the HBPC program. I am proud to be a part of this innovative team.

Future aspirations: After years of clinical practice to solidify my clinical knowledge and develop my practice, I hope to pursue a position in academia to help train future pharmacists either at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Fun Fact: I am a twin and one of five kids. My twin sister is a UConn Neag School of Education graduate and is likely the reason I love to teach and precept students and residents.

