

Dear Colleague:

You have been asked to submit a recommendation on behalf of a resident applicant to the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA San Francisco Medical Center. We would appreciate comments that address the characteristics listed in the template below. Please tell us 1) activities that the applicant performed that illustrate the characteristic, 2) how the applicant performed on these activities (What did they do well? What could have been improved?), and 3) how this applicant rates compared to other peers of equal experience.

Thank you for your assistance. All comments and information provided will be kept in confidence. Please submit your recommendation assessment and comments through the PhORCAS template as outlined below.

Sincerely,

Sharya Bourdet, Pharm.D., BCPS  
Residency Program Director  
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency - NMS Code 188313  
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency with a Focus in Ambulatory Care – NMS Code 188321  
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency with a Focus in Geriatrics– NMS Code 188322  
Pharmacy Service (119)  
VA Medical Center  
4150 Clement Street  
San Francisco, CA 94121

### Standardized Reference available in PhORCAS

**For the recommender to complete online in the PhORCAS reference portal.**

I have known the candidate for approximately \_\_\_\_\_ (months).

The relative hours per week of our interaction during that time \_\_\_\_\_ (hours).

My relationship to the candidate was (or is) in the following capacity:

- Faculty    preceptor    employer    professional organization    other (please specify)

Please rate this applicant for each of the following characteristics.

**Exceeds** = the candidate exceeds what is expected to enter a residency program;

**Appropriate** = the candidate performs appropriately for what is expected to enter a residency program;

**Fails to Meet** = the candidate fails to meet the level expected to enter a residency program, and

**N/A** = not applicable or not observed.

CHARACTERISTICS EVALUATED	Exceeds	Appropriate	Fails to Meet	N/A	Comments (Please address at least 3 fields below)
Writing skills (clinical, email, and assigned writings)					
Oral communication skills					
Leadership/mentoring skills					
Assertiveness					
Ability to organize and manage time					
Ability to work with peers and communicate effectively					

Clinical Problem Solving Skills					
Effective patient interactions					
Dependability					
Independence and resourcefulness					
Willingness to accept constructive criticism					
Emotional stability and maturity					
Professionalism (professional attire and professional demeanor)					

**Narrative comments (optional)**

1. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the candidate. Under a period of normal workload or abnormal? Frequency or number of directly observed clinical activities of the candidate? The degree of independence the candidate was given? Was that independence reduced or increased over the duration of a rotation? How did the candidate's skills compare with (in order of preference) concurrent residents, peer students or students from other colleges?
2. Please provide 2 strengths of this candidate and how you believe these strengths will be beneficial to his/her success in a residency program.
3. Please provide 2 areas for improvement of this candidate and how you believe a residency program will be able to work with the candidate's noted areas for improvement.
4. Please feel free to address any other characteristics or observances of the candidate not mentioned previously.

**5. FOR PGY2 CANDIDATES ONLY**

Please comment on how the candidate's skills compare with concurrent residents? Describe his/her degree of independence to date? Has the resident been able to assume more independence as the year progressed?

**Recommendation** concerning the applicant (**select one**)

- I highly recommend this candidate
- I recommend this candidate
- I recommend this candidate, but with some reservation/s
- I do not recommend this candidate

Please use this space to either enter program specific comments (optional)