



### Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the benefit of completing a residency compared to getting a typical full-time job as a new graduate?

The goal of residency is to develop therapists into expert clinicians that provide high-quality care within their area of specialty. Accredited residency programs are designed to provide a high level of clinical mentorship, a robust curriculum, and learning experiences across all settings in which a PT within the specialty might practice. They are also designed to prepare graduates to sit for the APTA board certification exam. Compared to a typical entry-level position, the primary benefits are threefold:

1: Dedicated time with expert mentors in order to develop expertise with clinical practice

2: Dedicated time for learning curriculum content in order to develop knowledge to support clinical practice as well as prepare for board certification

3: Learning opportunities across multiple practice settings within the first year of graduating to support graduates in understanding various practice models and identifying the setting best suited for them, while giving them the experience to pursue a position within that setting

2. What is unique about Mary Free Bed's residency that sets it apart from other programs?

Mary Free Bed is unique in that it is an independent rehabilitation hospital, with all areas of care focused on restoring hope and freedom through comprehensive rehabilitation services. We therefore have a vast array of services for patients and families to support all of their rehabilitation goals. These services include:

- A team of physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians who provide care for patients in inpatient rehabilitation and through outpatient clinics
- Specialty clinics with other pediatric physicians, including neurology and orthopedics
- Orthotics and OrthoSeat (custom wheelchair seating)
- Wheelchair and adaptive sports
- Specialty pediatric PT programs for chronic pain, pelvic floor, adaptive equipment, early development, scoliosis, aquatic therapy, spasticity management, computerized gait analysis, and serial casting

Mary Free Bed also has a dedicated pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit in which the resident will work as a primary clinical rotation. This sets us apart from other residencies as inpatient rehabilitation is not a required clinical setting for all programs. This gives our residents a unique opportunity to work with patients immediately after trauma, major surgery, or recovering from other complex medical concerns, and provide therapy services to them during their very early stages of recovery.

3. What does the resident's schedule look like?

Residents will have approximately 30 patient care hours per week, with rotations in both the pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit and in the outpatient therapy center. During this time, they will have dedicated 1-on-1 time with mentors to discuss patient cases and learn from the mentors about various aspects of patient care and case management. They will also have in-session mentoring where the expert mentor will attend sessions led by the resident in order to problem solve together and receive feedback from the mentor to support development of skill and expertise.

The remaining hours are focused on educational activities, which include:

- Didactics: completion of learning modules, including those developed by the program director and coordinator as well as participation in the Pediatric PT Residency Consortium, where residents will learn from expert clinicians across the country
- Scientific Inquiry Project: completion of a project, which typically involves a case report, cumulating in a Grand Rounds presentation at the end of the residency year
- Experiential Learning: observation and participation in various departments within our hospital as well as experiences in acute care, early intervention, and school-based therapy
- Journal Clubs: leading monthly journal club meetings where the resident facilitates discussion around a research article they've identified as being applicable to the team's learning needs
- Case Presentations: presenting a patient case to the team in order to facilitate discussion around clinical questions

4. What clinical experiences will be available to me as a resident?

The resident will primarily practice in our pediatric inpatient rehabilitation and outpatient therapy clinic settings. The resident will also have opportunities to observe and work with therapists in acute care, early intervention, and school-based settings.

5. What are the salary and benefits for this position?

The residency position is a 1-year full-time salaried position that comes with full-time benefits, including health insurance and paid time off as well as some funding for continuing education. The resident's salary is commensurate with the clinical hours scheduled.

6. Does your program accept new graduates? Do I need to have completed a pediatric clinical rotation in order to qualify?

We absolutely accept applications from new graduates! The majority of our previous residents have entered the program as new graduates, and we have designed our curriculum and clinical mentoring to ensure we can meet the learning needs of new graduates. It is helpful if the applicant has had opportunities to practice in pediatric PT through a clinical rotation, but this is not required. When reviewing applicants, we are looking for experiences that have led the applicant to having a passion for working in pediatrics, and enough experience working with children to ensure they know this is the specialty area they want to pursue. This can include other volunteer and job opportunities outside of therapy-specific experiences.

7. Does your program accept experienced therapists?

Yes, we absolutely accept applications from experienced therapists! Any therapist who is interested in further developing their skill and expertise within the specialty of pediatrics is welcome to apply. We have experience adapting our mentoring to more experienced clinicians in order to support their ability to continue developing their skill and expertise. The comprehensive curriculum is also highly beneficial in supporting the development of knowledge in order to prepare sitting for the board-certification exam.

8. What if I have more questions?

Please reach out to our program coordinator at: [PTpediatricResidency@maryfreebed.com](mailto:PTpediatricResidency@maryfreebed.com) and we will be happy to respond via email, a phone call, zoom meeting or potentially an in person meeting and tour of facilities.