



# News

For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

Celine Petrossian  
818.952.2213

**VHH Welcomes New Clinical Director of Perinatal Services**

(GLENDALE, CA – September 17, 2007) – Sara Harkness, RN, MSN, FNP, recently joined Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) as Clinical Director of Perinatal Services. With 30 years of healthcare experience, Harkness specializes in high-risk perinatal nursing and psychiatry.

Harkness said she looks forward to working jointly with Verdugo Hills’ nursing and medical staff, as well as its administrative team and the greater Foothills’ community.

“For the most part, I deal with the well population and generally deal with a happy situation,” Harkness said. “I also like to serve at those times where there are more challenges with a patient’s health.”

A graduate of the University of California at San Diego and Samuel Merritt College, Harkness has worked as a nurse practitioner in all areas of reproductive health, including labor and delivery and post-partum care. She has also worked at a high-risk perinatal practice and Spanish-only-speaking women’s health clinic in California. Most recently, Harkness served as Director of Women’s Health Services at San Gabriel Valley Medical Center. Previously, she worked as a nurse practitioner with East Bay Perinatal Medical Associates and Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, in Northern California.

As an Assistant Professor of Nursing on faculty at Samuel Merritt College, Harkness plans to further enhance the hospital's Perinatal Services through continued critical thinking and new research trends. “I’m hoping to capture some of the wave of the current baby boom by expanding awareness of our services,” she said.

- MORE -

Harkness is a member of: Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, California Association of Nurse Practitioners, and Association of California Nurse Leaders. She has also served on faculty at the University of California at San Francisco and Holy Names University.

“We are fortunate to have Ms. Harkness join our team,” said Judith Maass, RNP, MSN, Vice President of Nursing and Patient Care Services at VHH. “Her experience will enhance the quality of patient care we provide.”

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothill’s Best Hospital” for 2007 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff also received recognition as the best in the community, including: Dr. Scott W. Beeve, Foothills Best Ophthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry, Jr., Foothills Best Plastic Surgeon; Dr. Richard L. Rupp, Foothills Best Podiatrist; Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills Best Family Physician; Dr. Jane S. Wada, Foothills Best Dermatologist; and Dr. Ronald D. Woodard, Foothills Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist. For more information, please visit [www.vhhospital.org](http://www.vhhospital.org).

###

