



KAISER PERMANENTE MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM WOODLAND HILLS

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program

“Sharpening skills and curing ills - that’s the heart of Woodland Hills”

5601 De Soto Avenue
Woodland Hills, CA 91367



ABOUT US ✨

KAISER PERMANENTE

At Kaiser Permanente (KP), we recognize that where we live and how we live has a big impact on our health and well-being. Our work is driven by our mission: to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and our communities.

The Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Center proudly serves about 274,000 in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. These two areas exhibit distinct demographic diversity. Woodland Hills has a population comprising 26% Hispanic, 13% Asian, and 3% Black, whereas Ventura County's population is 57% Hispanic, 6% Asian, and 2% Black. Woodland Hills also has highest proportion of older adults in KP Southern California, where 44% of our population is 50 years of age or older. The Woodland Hills Medical Center area includes a 280-bed hospital, 16 medical office buildings, and 9 outpatient pharmacies in Woodland Hills, Porter Ranch, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Oxnard, and Ventura.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and utilizes the ASHP Residency Program Design and Content model to structure and deliver its training.

OUR PHARMACY SERVICES

KP Woodland Hills employs almost 200 pharmacists and supportive personnel who practice in diverse settings, including acute care, outpatient, ambulatory care, drug use management, and administration. We provide 24/7 inpatient and outpatient pharmaceutical care services and serve as a teaching site for many IPPE and APPE students.

Our inpatient pharmacy clinical services encompass internal medicine, NICU, ICU, infectious disease, antimicrobial stewardship, and transitions of care, with pharmacists participating in rounds, geriatrics/pain consultations, home infusion, and multidisciplinary teams for code blue and stroke responses. They manage protocols, such renal dosing, IV to PO conversion, aminoglycoside and vancomycin dosing, anticoagulation, TPN, and discharge education.

Our KP Woodland Hills Medical Center is a Center of Excellence for anticoagulation and oral chemotherapy clinical pharmacy services. Our ambulatory care pharmacists also provide patient care in heart failure, oncology, infectious disease, geriatrics, population care management, nephrology, chronic pain management, and primary care, utilizing their expertise and the latest guidelines for evidence-based practice.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PGY1 residency programs build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives. Residents who successfully complete PGY1 residency programs will be skilled in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education, and be prepared to provide patient care, seek board certification in pharmacotherapy (i.e., BCPS), and pursue advanced education and training opportunities including postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies.

AREA INFORMATION

The Woodland Hills Medical Center is in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, which is home to the world's major movie studios and celebrities. The Valley has many major attractions, such as Universal Studios Hollywood, the Getty Villa, and is also close to Six Flags Magic Mountain. Enjoy shopping at Westfield Topanga or the Camarillo Premium Outlets. Explore the coastal scenery and outdoor adventures at the beautiful beaches in Malibu and at the Ventura Pier and Promenade.



RESIDENCY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

ORIENTATION

Orientation is a 4-week required learning experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center. Orientation to the pharmacy department will focus on the organizational structure and management of pharmacy service lines at the national, state, and local levels. Other components include orientation to the residency program policies and procedures, expectations, PGY1 Pharmacy Standards, PGY1 Pharmacy Competency Areas, Goals, and Objectives (CAGOs), program evaluation strategy, and training on the PharmAcademic™ system. Additionally, residents will meet with preceptors and complete certification courses that are required by the residency program.

CARDIOLOGY

The Cardiology learning experience is a required 6-week learning experience at the Starwood Administrative Building. The resident will be part of the ambulatory team providing comprehensive anticoagulation and heart failure management in a high-volume clinical setting. Woodland Hills is a center of excellence, managing warfarin patients from 5 SCAL medical centers and direct oral anticoagulants from 6 medical centers. Core elements of this experience include analyzing laboratory results, initiating, adjusting, and communicating treatment plans, fluid status management, providing patient education, and quality assurance.



ACUTE CARE

The Acute Care learning experience is a 10-week required learning experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center. The purpose of this learning experience is to train residents to be proficient in the management of acute care patients. In addition, the resident will work closely with other health care team members to provide seamless coordination of care. Core elements of the experience include antibiotic stewardship, pharmacist managed protocols including anticoagulation, renal dosage adjustment, IV to PO conversion, aminoglycoside/vancomycin, vaccines, geriatrics/pain, and patient discharge consultation. The resident will also participate in drug distribution, the unit dose system, IV preparation, as well as understand the regulatory requirements set forth by USP <795>, USP <797>, USP <800> and the California Board of Pharmacy.

FAMILY MEDICINE

The Family Medicine learning experience is a 4-week elective learning experience (LE) at the Woodland Hills Medical Center that gives the resident an opportunity to collaborate and provide clinical pharmacy services to Family Medicine residents and patients. This LE is offered in the spring after completion of the Acute Care LE. During this LE, the resident will gain knowledge and develop skills in pharmacotherapeutics in acutely hospitalized patients and outpatient primary care, and drug education with family medicine residents and faculty.

ONCOLOGY

The Oncology learning experience is a 6-week required learning experience at the Woodland Hills & Market Street Oncology Pharmacies designed to provide training in clinical oncology pharmacy practice focusing on patient care, clinical research, patient/staff education and hazardous drug distribution. The Woodland Hills (WH) service area has two USP <797> and <800> compliant, licensed outpatient oncology pharmacies located at the hematology/oncology clinics. WH is also a center of excellence for oral chemotherapy, managing patients from the Panorama City, Antelope Valley, Kern County, and Downey Medical Center areas.

DIABETES & OBESITY MANAGEMENT

The Diabetes and Obesity Management learning experience is a 4-week elective learning experience at the Porter Ranch Medical Office Building that focuses on pharmacological therapy optimization, behavioral modifications, and lifestyle changes in adult patients with chronic conditions including type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and metabolic disorders/obesity. The resident will gain experience in collaborating with other members of the healthcare team, including but not limited to physicians, nurses, advanced practice practitioners, and medical assistants. The resident will work directly with patients, perform medication reconciliation, provide patient education, and determine optimal medication regimens. Medications may be adjusted or initiated based on pharmacist protocol to achieve medication selection and dosing optimization.

CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Chronic Pain Management learning experience is a 4-week elective learning experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center that offers the resident exposure to the challenges of managing patients with chronic pain. The resident will obtain their DEA license, conduct patient clinic visits, and provide appropriate pain management pharmacotherapy regimens for ambulatory patients. The resident may also have a unique opportunity to participate and conduct pharmacotherapy education to patients in the Persistent Pain Management class, as the schedule permits.

NEW MEMBER PROGRAM

The New Member Program learning experience is a 4-week elective learning experience at the Starwood Administrative Building. This ambulatory care service assists new or returning Kaiser Permanente members' transition into the healthcare system by providing clinical onboarding, optimizing the time spent with the patient's primary care physician at the initial visit, and minimizing disruption of medication therapy. As the New Member Program is not a follow up clinic, the patient will need to be referred to the appropriate service or primary care physician for follow up.



PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The Practice Management learning experience is a 53-week required longitudinal experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center, designed to introduce managerial responsibilities in a structured setting. The resident will gain exposure to outpatient, administrative, inpatient, and ambulatory care management to build confidence and strengthen communication skills. Assessment will include topic discussions with pharmacy leaders, participation in key meetings, and completion of assigned projects. Activities include management training, residency recruitment, and local professional meetings. A minor project, medication use evaluation (MUE) will be completed and a major research project—suitable for publication (manuscript)—will be completed and presented at the Western States Conference, along with a poster for a local, state, or national conference.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The Infectious Disease learning experience is a 4-week elective learning experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center. The resident will be part of the multidisciplinary team providing primarily comprehensive HIV/AIDS monitoring and management. In addition, the HIV service works closely with the patient's primary care physician, other specialists, and ancillary health care team members to provide seamless coordination of care. Ambulatory Care Pharmacists working in the HIV service manage patients referred by their primary care physician for pre-exposure prophylaxis and by infectious disease specialists for HIV or AIDS. The pharmacist is responsible for analyzing laboratory results, initiating, and adjusting highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), communicating treatment plans as discussed with specialists, and providing patient education.

GERIATRICS

This is a 4-week elective learning experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center and Thousand Oaks Medical Office Building. This learning experience will provide the resident with an opportunity for hands on involvement in a comprehensive geriatrics service in an interdisciplinary environment. The geriatric pharmacist evaluates the clinical status of frail elderly regarding geriatric syndromes (i.e., poor medication adherence, polypharmacy, depression, anxiety, dementia, incontinence, falls, osteoporosis etc.) and intervenes accordingly. Resident activities include but are not limited to managing patients on memory medications under protocol, and managing patients with sleep problems, behavioral problems of dementia, and depression.

NEPHROLOGY

Nephrology is a 4-week elective learning experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center, offering focused care of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD). The resident will provide comprehensive medication reviews of CKD patients with complex drug regimens, initiating and monitoring epoetin alfa (EPO) and iron infusions, while applying advanced pharmacotherapeutic principles to the treatment of nephrology patients.



COMMUNITY SERVICE: FREE CLINIC OF SIMI VALLEY

The Free Clinic of Simi Valley (FCSV) is a volunteer, longitudinal elective learning experience and is based in a community clinic located in Simi Valley. The FCSV provides medical, dental, legal and counseling services for an underserved, mainly Spanish-speaking patient population. It is associated with the Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Family Medicine Residency Program. The resident interviews the patient, performs physical assessment, orders/interprets laboratory tests, and assesses medications and a variety of other subjective/objective information. The resident assesses the patient and develops a treatment and follow up plan. Medications may be initiated, altered, or discontinued for chronic disease states.

TEACHING & EDUCATION

The Teaching and Education learning experience is a 53-week required longitudinal experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center. The primary goal of this learning experience is to provide the resident pharmacist with the training and experience to become an effective clinician-educator and to develop a personal teaching philosophy. The resident will gain knowledge and develop skills in precepting and facilitating pharmacy student learning activities, preparing and presenting journal clubs to promote the continuing education of medical professionals, and presenting monographs, interregional practice recommendations, and/or guidelines to monthly Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) meetings.

DRUG INFORMATION

This 3-week required (Lottery) virtual learning experience is conducted by one of the largest private drug information centers in the United States. Pharmacist specialists work in all aspects of information management, analysis and application serve as the preceptors for this concentrated experience. During this unique experience, the resident will learn not only basic drug information skills but very sophisticated, computer-based patient management databases. In addition, the resident will develop a drug monograph for evaluation by local and regional P&T Committees.

DRUG USE MANAGEMENT

Drug Use Management (DrUM) is a required 6-week learning experience at the Woodland Hills Medical Center. The DrUM pharmacists provide drug information to physicians, pharmacists, and other healthcare personnel to impact prescribing behavior to optimize cost-effective drug utilization and safety. During this learning experience, residents gain knowledge and develop skills in drug education, executing a physician drug education project (completion/revision of drug utilization management criteria), and assessing the outcomes. Additionally, the resident attends and presents at Medication Treatment Appropriateness Committee meetings and participates in therapeutic conversion programs.



REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE ✨

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Graduate of an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited college (or ACPE candidate status) or have Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee certificate from NABP
- Candidates must graduate with at least a 3.00 GPA (on 4.00 scale). Candidates from schools without GPA must submit class ranking or equivalent
- Must be licensed as an Intern Pharmacist in the state of California by start of residency program
- Must be licensed as a Pharmacist in the state of California within 120 days after the program start date
- Candidates must be registered in the National Matching Services, Inc. (NMS)
- Candidates must participate in the ASHP Matching Program
- Program NMS Code: 131613 and ASHP Program Code: 92370

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Letter of Intent
- Curriculum Vitae
- Official Pharmacy School transcripts, sent directly from the applicant's college or school of pharmacy
- Three letters of reference/recommendations
- Application Deadline: January 5th, 2026

INTERVIEW DETAILS

- Interview Required: Yes, by invitation
- Interview Dates: February 2026
- Virtual Information Session
 - October 21st from 12:00PM to 1:00PM
 - November 19th from 12:00PM to 1:00PM
- In-Person Open House
 - December 2nd from 11:00AM to 1:00PM

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

At Kaiser Permanente, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse learning environment that embraces all backgrounds, perspectives and experiences. We value equity in healthcare and strive to develop compassionate, culturally competent pharmacists who serve diverse patient populations.

CONTACT US

Kimi Pontoppidan, Pharm.D., APh
Clinical Pharmacy Director
Residency Program Director
Kimi.A.Hiranaka@kp.org
(818) 719-2910

Hasmig Ekmekdjian, Pharm.D., APh
Drug Education Coordinator
Residency Program Coordinator
Hasmig.X.Ekmekdjian@kp.org
(818) 719-2910

Lilit Balian, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident
Lilit.X.Balian@kp.org
(818) 719-3435

Tigran Khachatryan, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident
Tigran.A.Khachatryan@kp.org
(818) 719-3435