

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

March, 2000

Reason to Celebrate!!

by Jerri Henry

Hello everyone! The moment we have waited for has arrived! On 3/2/00 the state legislature **passed**-SSB 5805 which completes prescriptive authority for Schedule II - IV.

This bill went off to the Governor for signature on March 6, 2000 he will then have 20 days (excluding Sundays) to sign these bills into law. Once signed by the Governor the new law becomes effective in 90 days after the end of this legislative session.

It was a grassroots effort that finally prevailed to convince key legislators to pass our bill for the completion of prescriptive authority. Congratulations to all who have worked over the past 11 years to get these bills through; to all of you who took the time to write or meet with your representatives; and to our Lobbyist Jerry Farley for representing us well in Olympia!!!!

The compromise position we had to take to get this SSB 5805 passed require the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC), the Medical Quality Assurance Commission and the Osteopathic Board of Medicine and Surgery to jointly adopt a process and criteria to implement a joint practice arrangement for the prescribing of Class II - IV pharmaceuticals. Your Board has already started the process of working with the NCQAC to ensure the required joint practice arrangement will be favorable to all ARNPs. Be assured it is our primary goal to safeguard our current level of independent prescriptive authority for Class V - Legend Drugs in this process.

HCFA Announces It Will Remove Physician Supervision Requirement for Nurse Anesthetist

After deliberating for more than two years, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) announced that it will remove the federal requirement that nurse anesthetists must be supervised by physicians when administering anesthesia to Medicare patients. The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register in June.

Until now, in anesthesia cases involving Medicare patients, the federal rule required physician supervision of nurse anesthetists in order for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to be reimbursed for the nonanesthesia portion of a patient's care. However, for the nurse anesthetists themselves to be reimbursed, Medicare did not require supervision.

HCFA first proposed changing this rule in December 1997, with the federal agency electing to defer to the states on the supervision issue. Presently, the nursing

statutes and board of nursing rules in 29 states do not require physician supervision of nurse anesthetists.

The rule change is good news for the American public because it ensures access to safe, high-quality anesthesia care, especially in rural areas and inner city hospitals where Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are often the sole anesthesia providers.

"HCFA's decision supports what the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) has been saying all along—that CRNAs provide safe, high-quality anesthesia care," said Jan Stewart, CRNA, AANA president. "This rule not only advocates states rights over federal government regulation, which is generally the norm in healthcare matters, it is also a giant step in enabling hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to exercise more latitude in the use of anesthesia providers and improving operating room efficiency without affecting quality."

Throughout the two-year waiting period, AANA vigorously lobbied HCFA in support of the rule. The association emphasized that thanks to advancements in pharmaceuticals, monitoring technology, and anesthesia provider education, anesthesia care today is safer than ever before, with approximately one death for every 240,000 anesthetics given as compared with one for every 10,000 anesthetics just 20 years ago. CRNAs provide 65 percent of the 26 million anesthetics administered in the United States each year, and are the sole anesthesia providers in more than 65 percent of rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities surgical, obstetrical, and trauma stabilization capabilities.

Last October, a national survey of Medicare recipients conducted by Wirthlin Worldwide, an independent research firm based in Virginia, strengthened AANA's argument by revealing that "88 percent of Medicare patients would be comfortable if their surgeon chose a nurse anesthetist to provide their anesthesia." The study further revealed that almost two-thirds of the seniors indicated it was acceptable for the nurse anesthetist to not be supervised by their surgeon, but work collaboratively with the surgeon who is always present throughout the operation.

"No one can say HCFA did not do its homework," said Stewart. "AANA applauds the agency for its efforts to conduct the necessary interviews with anesthesia experts from both the nursing and medical communities and to review the necessary scientific literature on anesthesia outcomes to enable them to implement this important rule change."

HCFA's proposal was opposed by the American Society

of Anesthesiologists (ASA), which called for a national study comparing anesthesia outcomes between the two provider groups. However, undertaking such a study, which would have cost taxpayers approximately \$15 million, was considered and rejected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) back in 1990. At that time the CDC concluded that poor anesthesia outcomes were so rare it would be a waste of government money to conduct such a study.

In 1994, the Minnesota Department of Health, in conducting a legislatively mandated study of anesthesia care in that state, concluded that there "are no studies, either national in scope or Minnesota-specific, which conclusively show a difference in patient outcomes" based on whether the anesthesia provider is a nurse anesthetist or anesthesiologist.

"Nurse anesthetists have worked successfully with surgeons and anesthesiologists to provide safe anesthesia care to patients for more than 100 years," she said. "Many nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists work together every day caring for patients, participating in joint educational experiences, and collaborating on research projects. We look forward to continuing what we view as very positive collaborative relationships with surgeons and anesthesiologists as we enter this new and improved regulatory environment."

Final Legislative Update

by Jerri Henry

We are 3 for 3!!! SB 5739, allowing ARNPs to sign death certificates **passed** both Houses in its original form by the end of this year's legislative regular session. The bill was first passed by the Senate, but picked up an amendment (SHB 2476) when it was first passed in the House of Representatives -- which was rejected when returned to the Senate. Then, when a ruling decided the bill's amendment was outside of our bill's "scope and intent" - the amendment was removed allowing the House of Representatives to pass the bill in its original form. Also passed was SB 5590 which allows public and private schools to administer oral medications to students if the request for medication comes from any licensed health professional. Many thanks again to Jerry Farley who made this process "happen" and has represented us so well in Olympia. Personally, I am happy to see this bill pass - as it further promotes our role as a primary care provider

ACNP Photo Campaign

ACNP (American College of Nurse Practitioners) is developing a media kit and is looking for faces of "real" NPs. If you have a photo that captures the essence of the nurse practitioner in her/his professional setting please send us a copy! We are looking for crisp, up-close, color photographs of NPs, preferably in the clinical setting and with or without patient(s). These

photographs will be used as part of a pictorial montage on the cover of our media kit that will be distributed to the national news media, corporate sponsors, affiliates and consumers.

Please send photos to:

ACNP
503 Capitol Court, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002
ATTN: ACNP Photo Campaign

Be sure to include your name and contact information so that we may contact you if your photo is selected. All selected submitters will receive a copy of the final product. **Photos will not be returned.** Send copies or if you have the capability, please scan your picture and email it to acnp@nurse.org.

Classified Ads

Occupational Health Nurse Practitioner

One of region's fastest growing multi-specialty groups seeks certified NP with serious interest and experience in occupational medicine. Current knowledge of FAA, DOT, WISHA, OSHA and Labor & Industries a plus. This is a full-time position at 5 days per week/no call. Position based in our rapidly expanding Workplace Wellness Clinic that serves employees from over 500 businesses. Located just 50 minutes north of Portland, Oregon in a family-oriented community noted for its many parks, excellent library, vital performing arts theatre, and proximity to the great PNW outdoors. This practice is ideal for a NP who wants to join a practitioner-driven organization committed to quality and compassionate care. We offer competitive compensation and outstanding benefits. Contact Anne Bennett, PeaceHealth Medical Group, Longview, WA Phone: 360-414-7596; Fax: 360-414-7550 or E-mail: ABennett@PeaceHealth.org.

Clinical Coordinator

Open immediately at GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, a Jesuit institution located in the beautiful Inland Pacific Northwest. Join our innovative nursing program that has a well-established distance learning program. The Clinical Coordinator holds a non-tenure track faculty position. Responsibilities include coordinating clinical placements, guiding students in creating individualized clinical programs, networking with rural placement projects and other FNP programs, and facilitating collaboration among preceptors and clinical faculty. The position involves some travel and clinical supervision of FNP students. There are also opportunities for classroom teaching and clinical practice. Position requirements: Master's-prepared (FNP preferred) with a minimum of 1 year practice experience as an NP. Eligibility for Washington State ARNP license. Highly developed organizational skills and excellent written and verbal communication skills are essential. Applications accepted until position is filled. Appointment begins June 1, with part-time availability after March 15 preferred. Gonzaga University offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Gonzaga University is an AA/EEO employer that practices mission-centered hiring. Send letter of interest and curriculum vitae to: Dr. Susan Norwood, Chairperson, Department of Nursing, Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone Ave, AD Box 38, Spokane, WA 99258-0038. Phone: 509-323-6646. Email: norwood@gu.gonzaga.edu

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center is dedicated to compassionately meeting the medical, surgical, and developmental needs of children. Our state-of-the-art facility is fortunate to have attracted a pool of talented doctors, nurses, and staff that have earned national recognition for the hospital. Right now, we have opportunities for the right individual to join our fantastic staff. We are currently looking for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners. We are looking for NNPs who appreciate diverse work experiences and opportunities for career

development in our level III Infant ICU at Children's and NICU at the University of Washington, and in level II community hospitals, including Group Health-Central in Seattle and possibly Providence General in Everett. While on rotation in the Infant ICU or NICU, you will work with the attending neonatologist and pediatric residents in caring for our sickest patients, and, in addition, lead the infant ground transport team. While on rotation in community hospitals, you will also be working independently in the level II nursery and delivery rooms, with neonatologists available as consultants. Full-time and part-time (60%+) positions are available, and shifts are generally 12 or 24 hour. This position requires a current Washington State Licensure as ARNP with Prescriptive Authority (Master's degree required) and current national certification as NNP. If you are interested in improving the lives of infants and their families on a daily basis, forward your resume to: Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center, CL-31, HR, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Fax: (206) 368-4820. For more info, visit us on the web at www.seattlechildrens.org. EOE.

Clinical Director

Chelan-Douglas Regional Support Network is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Clinical Director. Qualifications should include Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner or Master's Degree in behavioral sciences, social work, or related field. Must qualify as a Mental Health Professional with at least five years of direct care experience in a mental health setting with increasingly responsible duties or positions. Preference will be given to persons with knowledge of Washington State or other public mental health service systems, familiarity with managed care, quality management, and working with inpatient psychiatric hospitals. CDMHP, supervisory, or program management experience a plus. Bilingual in Spanish encouraged to apply. Starting Salary: \$48,649. EOE. Closes March 15, 2000. Please send letter of application and resume to: Marty Driggs, CDRSN/PHP, 636 Valley Mall Parkway, Suite 200, East Wenatchee, WA 98002.

Family Nurse Practitioner

A large multispecialty group is seeking two experienced FNPs to work in our Yakima practice. These individuals would have responsibilities caring for chronically ill internal medicine patients on a full-time basis. You would provide patient care, education, and work collaboratively with MDs on patient treatment plans in an office, hospital, and extended care setting. The ideal individuals must enjoy long term patient relationships and must be highly flexible, creative, and possess an eagerness to learn skills in specialty care. Send letter of interest and CV to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 2965, Yakima, WA 98907. Telephone: (509)575-7666. Fax: (509) 575-7671. Email: shallauer@imay.com

OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner

Spectrum Healthcare Resources, www.spectrumhealth.com/shr, has an excellent opportunity for an OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner within our facility at Bremerton Naval Hospital, Wash. Enjoy rewarding medical opportunity with a rewarding lifestyle. Established patient population and weekday clinic hours affords time for family, friends ... and yourself!! Requires prior OB/GYN experience & current WA license or willingness to obtain one. Excellent remuneration and comprehensive benefits package, featuring medical/dental/life insurance & 401K. For consideration, please contact: Erika Thompson, (800) 325-3982, X. 9243; FAX: (800) 774-9083 Email: ekthompson@spectrumhealth.com. EOE/AA

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

For immediate opening at Sammamish Valley Psychological Services P S, an established, highly collegial multidisciplinary behavioral health group practice with offices in Redmond and Woodinville. Group provides referrals, MCO contracts, billing, office staff, furnished office, voice mail/pager. Needs broad clinical skills in assessment, medication, and psychotherapy. independent prescribing experience required. Must work well with managed care. Call Gregg Schimmel. Ph.D. (425)883-2623 x23. Fax Vita (425) 883-6241

Geriatric Nurse Practitioner

A.R.N.P. needed for busy Internal Medicine practice in Burien, WA. FT position, competitive wage and benefit package. Affiliated with HCH Health Care Network. Contact Gail Mumma @ 206-619-9069 or Fax CV to 206-431-3939.

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

KAISER PERMANENTE has an opening available for a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with a specialty in Adolescent or Adult Mental Health. This new opportunity will include half-time hospital liaison and half-time outpatient practice at our East Interstate Medical Office in North Portland. The liaison role will be transitioning patients from an inpatient setting to an outpatient setting, which includes brief therapy, group therapy, medication evaluation and management within a multidisciplinary team. The candidate must have an Oregon license with prescriptive privileges and at least two years of prescribing experience. We offer a competitive salary and flexible benefit package which includes family medical/dental, life/disability insurance, and generous pension program, continuing education allowance and more. Please forward resume to Judy Parmenter, Professional Staff Recruiter, KAISER PERMANENTE, 500 NE Multnomah, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon 97232. EOE

Family or Adult Nurse Practitioner

KAISER PERMANENTE, one of the most successful managed care programs in the country, has a full-time position available in Portland, Oregon, for a Nurse Practitioner to join two plastic surgeons in the Department of Surgery. This is an excellent opportunity to join a growing, dynamic, plastic surgery group. This is an outpatient practice which includes triaging referrals, breast surgery group presentations, pre-op evaluations and post-op visits, and minor surgery in the clinic. Ours is a collegial and stimulating practice, providing a quality lifestyle inherent to the Pacific Northwest. We provide a competitive salary and comprehensive flexible benefit package, a generous pension plan, continuing education funds, paid malpractice insurance and more. Forward resume to Judy Parmenter, KAISER PERMANENTE, 500 NE Multnomah, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon 97232-2099. 800-813-3762. EOE

Continuing Education

Seattle Pacific University Graduate Courses

Do you have legal questions about your practice? Interested in brushing up on pathophysiology? Seattle Pacific University offers graduate courses for working nurses. All courses after 4:00 PM. Winter quarter (January-March): Legal and Entrepreneurial Issues; Pathophysiology; Curriculum Development in Nursing. Spring quarter (March - June) Health Issues of Older Adults; Women's Health. For info on courses or a Master's degree in nursing, contact Donna Allis 206-281-2649 or e-mail dallis@spu.edu.

New Approaches in Allergic Rhinitis, Asthma, Osteoarthritis and Osteoporosis

Sunday, April 30, and Monday, May 1, 2000 Merv Griffin's Resort Hotel and Givenchy Spa, Palm Springs, California. Tuition: \$125 by 3/15/2000, \$175 after 3/15/2000. CE hours: Approximately 10 contact hours total. This two-day conference will cover topics in the recognition, treatment, and outcomes of allergic rhinitis, asthma, osteoarthritis, and osteoporosis. Experts will present on evidence-based approaches to the treatment of common clinical problems encountered in primary care practice. It will be targeted to primary care physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and pharmacists. Contact Penny Evans for more information. Phone: 206.616.4587, email: pennye@u.washington.edu

Reproductive Health 2000:

A Clinical Update on Women, Men, and Families

September 13-16, 2000, Swissotel Chicago, Illinois. The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) will host its annual meeting, Reproductive Health 2000, September 13-16, 2000 in Chicago, Illinois. This CME conference is designed for primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, registered nurses, pharmacists,

physician assistants, researchers, public health professionals, and health educators. It is being sponsored with AVSC International, National Abortion Federation (NAF), Planned Parenthood® Federation of America (PPFA), and National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH). Two concurrent pre-conferences, Men's Reproductive Health and Women's Health in the Perimenopause will be held September 13th. Men's Health will feature sessions on reversible male contraception, no-scalpel vasectomy, and testicular self-exams. Women's Health in the Perimenopause will offer sessions on osteoporosis, alternative therapies, and mature sexuality. The general educational sessions will take place September 13th-16th and will feature didactic lectures with question and answer sessions immediately following. Lecture topics will include STDs, abortion, contraception, domestic violence, and much more. Program information is available on ARHP's web site at www.arhp.org. Please contact ARHP to receive a printed program, exhibit information, or for any other additional information. Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP), 2401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 350, Washington DC, 20037-1718, phone: 202-466-3825, fax: 202-466-3826, e-mail: conferences@arhp.org, web site: www.arhp.org.

Meeting Announcements

The **Puget Sound Nurse Practitioner Association** will meet on Wed. April 19 at Salty's on Alki (1936 Harbor Ave SW) in West Seattle. Speaker is Eric Gershwin MD on Allergic Rhinitis "All You Sneeze to Nose" Hors d'oeuvres at 6 PM, dinner at 6:45. RSVP to deborah.j.hardie@pfizer.com, or to voice mail at 1-800-233-7241, ext. 77935

Healthy Humor: There's a new book out in time for St Patrick's Day... "Heart Surgery in Ireland" by Angie O'Plasty.



Ad Information

Copy deadline is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Ads may be accepted later than this on a space-available basis. Position Available Ads & Continuing Education Announcements of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75, and greater than 130 words are \$105. Position Available Ads are priced per insertion. Continuing Education Announcements are per offering for up to three (3) consecutive insertions. New Product Announcements per product for one insertion of 130 words or less are \$75. Ad Inserts are \$540 for one issue. All ads are subject to space limitations and editing. Call for detailed rate information. Mail copy to *ARNP Care*, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.480.0002. Email care@nurse.net

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