

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

January 2001

ARNPs United of Washington State Legislative Update

by Jerri Henry

Year 2000 was the most successful year legislatively in the history of ARNPs United of Washington. Wiser with experience, we look forward to the challenges 2001 presents. The Fall elections did not change the fact the House of Representatives will remain split with 50% Democrats, 50% Republicans. The Senate will again keep their Democratic majority. The 2001 legislative session will be a "long" session, which occurs every other year - this means the legislature will be in session for one extra month — January through April. Our first priority will be to introduce a bill to allow NPs to sign Labor and Industries exam forms. We again will count on the excellent work by our Lobbyist Jerry Farley, grassroots efforts by many NPs around the state, and by aligning ourselves with primary care organizations such as WAFP (WA Academy of FP) to break new ground in this area. I will be updating you monthly on the progress of this effort. I anticipate calling upon NPs around the state to deliver testimony in front of the Health Care Committees in March or April on the L&I issue- if you are interested in testifying, please email me at jhenry5@home.com or call 206.534.2621. Our second priority is to continue to work diligently with the Rule Writing Coalition, with representatives from WSNA, AAPPN and the WANA, to finalize the Rules so we can begin to write our own Controlled Substances scripts. Currently, we are on Draft #3 of the Rule language but unfortunately have met roadblocks with the Medical Commission. Guided by input from WSMA representatives, the Medical Commission is suggesting supervisory language, which we have opposed...and on it goes. We are doing everything we can to move this issue to completion. The Rule Writing Coalition members have attended the Medical Commission hearings on the Rule Writing issue and provided input, and will seek to finalize this process, be assured we will not compromise to any supervisory language.

Nurse Legislative Day ARNPs United of Washington State will once again Co-Sponsor the annual Nurse Legislative Day on Monday, February 12, 2001 in Olympia. Washington State Secretary of the Department of Health Mary Selecky will be the keynote speaker. This is a full day of activities, in the morning lectures and panel discussions of this year's nursing legislative issues, lunch, then afternoon break out sessions on different topics. ARNPs United will be hosting our own breakout session discussing our unique issues. The rest of the day is spent meeting with your legislators in 15 min. appointment times. If you have never attended this event, it is most informative and

empowering as you are educated on the political process, and how to effectively communicate with your legislators. For information and to register log on to the WSNA website at www.wsna.org.

Nurses Rule

For the second year in a row Nurses have been ranked number one in the Gallup Poll concerning honesty and ethical standards. When people were asked the question, "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields – very high, high, average, low, or very low? First...Next...etc." they selected nurses as very high or high 79 percent of the time. This is up from 73 percent last year. For many years pharmacists have topped the list. That is, until nurses were added to the survey in 1999. Since then nurses have topped the charts. Other professions in the top five include 2. pharmacists, 3. veterinarians, 4. doctors, 5. grade school and high school teachers. Surprisingly clergy finished 6th. This poll says a lot about the public's opinion of nurses.

For more information go to:

http://www.gallup.com/poll/indicators/indhnsty_ethcs2.asp

Neonatal Nurse Practitioners Prove Their Worth

In November, the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine published a study comparing neonatal nurse practitioners to pediatric residents in providing care to extremely low-birth-weight babies. With advances in neonatal health care there has been a growing need for staff in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). These openings have resulted in these units staffing with more nurse practitioners. The other difficulty facing NICUs is that pediatric residents usually spend about 3-4 months of their three-year training in the NICU. The retrospective study compared 94 infants treated by nurse practitioners and 107 treated by pediatric residents. The length of stay, complications rate, and NICU hospital costs were all comparable. For more information go to: Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine 2000; 154: 1123-1126. <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/issues/v154n11/rfull/poa00096.html>

HHS Releases Voluntary Compliance Program Guidance for Physician Practices

The Office of Inspector General of DHHS has issued final guidance to help physicians in individual and small group practices design voluntary compliance programs. This is of particular interest to NPs in independent practice and those who work with small group practices. Additional information about this is at www.hhs.gov/oig/new.html

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Healthy Humor

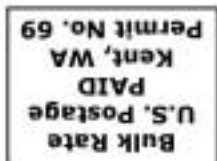
A man walks into a nurse practitioners office with a stick of celery in one ear a carrot in the other, and a grape up his nose. Confused, the man asks: "Doctor what's wrong with me?" The NP looks at the man and replies:

"Your not eating properly!"

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