

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

Vol. 12, No. 4

Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

April 2001

Update on Prescriptive Authority Rule Writing

by Jerri Henry ARNP

As discussed in the March 2001 edition of *ARNP Care* select members from each of the tripartite committees (Nursing Quality Assurance Commission, Medical Quality Assurance Commission and Osteopathic Board) met in February and agreed to language for a Joint Practice Arrangement (Draft #3), which they would take back to their organizations for a final vote in March. I am glad to announce on March 9th, both the Nursing Commission and the Medical Commission accepted Draft #3 of the language with one exception. The exception is that in the section dealing with the termination of the Joint Practice Arrangement (JPA), the language calling for a 30-day termination notice would be eliminated. Instead a general statement was substituted that the JPA shall contain a provision for written termination. The Board of Osteopathy will meet 3/30 to also vote on Draft #3 and all indications are that they will accept it as they have not opposed any issues of the language in the past.

Once all three Boards have adopted Draft #3 the next step will be a 30 day public comment period followed by a Final Rules Hearing either in June or July - and that's it! As always ARNPs United of Washington State, along with Rule Writing Coalition members WSNA, WANA and AAPPN will be monitoring this process, attempting to thwart any unforeseen opposition in the final hours.

Remember two things: with the final passage of this Rule, the ARNP will need to have a Joint Practice Agreement and a DEA number before being able to write independent scripts for Controlled Substances II-IV. It is advisable apply for the DEA number as soon as possible - the number is available in the Blue Pages of the phone book under Drug Enforcement Administration.

ARNPs United of Washington State to Sponsor Educational Offerings

by Jerri Henry ARNP

The Board of Directors unanimously approved to adopt a plan calling for the organization to sponsor several upcoming Continuing Education offerings beginning this Spring and Summer across the State. Besides offering the opportunity for CE credits and networking, the plan is designed to reach out to non-members with information on the organization. This plan was developed from our *new* mission statement which is: "*ARNPs United of Washington State is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting ARNP practice by coordinating educational, legislative and networking activities of Nurse Practitioners throughout Washington*

State". Please watch for our events which will be posted in the CE Announcements section of this newsletter.

Legislative Update

by Jerry Farley

Another key deadline has recently passed. By March 30, 2001, Senate bills not exempt from the cut-off—operating, capital and transportation budgets—had to be out of House policy committees. By the same date, House bills not exempt had to be out of Senate policy committees. The next deadline was April the 13th. House bills not exempt have to be out of the Senate and, similarly, Senate bills not exempt had to be out of the House. In other words, the only bills still alive after the 13th would be those, which have passed both houses, and those exempt from the cut-off.

Our prescriptive authority bill, SB 5796, was filed just in case the rules implementing the 2000 bill did not get done in a timely fashion. As of this date, all three regulatory boards have accepted those rules. Next will be the public hearing and finally an effective date in a few short weeks. Then, nurse practitioners will be able to dispense or prescribe Schedules II through IV within the context of the joint practice agreements.

Our bill to authorize nurse practitioners to participate fully in labor and industry practice, SB 5797, passed the Senate Health Care Committee but did not get out of the Senate Rules Committee. It will require some significant work to educate legislators about the issues and the legitimate basis for the bill. This will take some time, certainly at least one or more years. Our opposition will be the Association of Washington Business. AWB's opposition is two-fold. First, AWB does not like the current L&I system. It would prefer another option: so-called "three-way", which would allow private insurance companies to compete with the State of Washington. AWB believes private insurance is more cost effective. Secondly, it does not want to expand the list of practitioners authorized to participate because AWB believes practitioners who have no incentive to deny coverage or to end coverage abuse the system now. I believe that AWB's opposition to our bill is not well founded. After all, nurse practitioners are no more likely to abuse their authority than any other practitioner. In fact, nurse practitioners are less likely to do so. And AWB's desire to have another option is not relevant to the bill. But, so it goes. Time is needed.

Our bill to allow nurse practitioners to authorize disabled parking permits, SB 5795, passed the Senate but died in the House Transportation Committee. It was a victim of inter-house politics. First of all, nurse practitioners are already allowed by Department of Licensing rules to authorize these parking permits. So

all the bill would have done is clearly support the administrative rule by specific statutory language. I am working with the Chair of the Senate Health Care Committee, Senators Oke and Haugen, sponsors of another Senate bill which amends the same section of law, and the Democratic co-chair of the House Health Care Committee to amend this other Senate bill. Should this attempt be successful, there will be no change in the current situation. But, at least the rule will not be able to be repealed.

Finally, our bill, SB 5794, which authorizes nurse practitioners to make determinations in guardianship proceedings passed the Senate Health Care Committee but did not move out of Senate Rules because it was decided by House and Senate leadership to move the companion House bill instead. This bill, HB 1920, has passed the Senate Health Care Committee and now resides in the Senate Rules Committee. I have until April the 12th to get this bill out of Rules and passed by the Senate. Opposition to the bill is centered not on the policy issue the bill embodies but the prime sponsor of the bill. I expect that we can overcome this obstacle and get the bill passed by this deadline. There is no guarantee.

If the two bills pass the 2001 session, ARNPs United will have a stellar record of success for the current and immediately past year: 5 bills into law and rules implementing the 2000 prescriptive authority bill. Why has ARNPs United been so successful? Hard work by several nurse practitioners, good work by your previous lobbyist, Gail McGavick, strong support for your issues by key House and Senate members and, finally, efforts by your current lobbyist.

National NP Marketing Campaign Update

By Westley Wright Byrne, NP

The Campaign has received more than \$90,000 toward its first-year goal of \$120,000. Individual NPs and groups large and small are urged to put the Campaign "over the top" by 1 June so that initial objectives can be fully met.

In the meantime, work on strategies with MSI media relations firm has gotten underway. NPs all over the country have volunteered their services to the Speakers Bureau, which will be a tremendous advantage in getting the NP message out quickly and uniformly. Thanks to everyone who has offered time and availability for this crucial aspect of the Campaign. See last month's update if you haven't volunteered yet and would be willing to do so.

In addition to the NP database, MSI is also putting together media and legislative databases. If you know of reporters or elected officials representing you at the state or federal level who are particularly interested in health care issues, please pass that knowledge along. The more NP-receptive "ears" to hear what NPs have to

say, the greater the impact the Campaign will have. Work on materials for the Media Kit is taking shape now, so we want to have these databases complete as soon as possible.

Everyone is needed. Please offer your dollars to the NP National Marketing Campaign at PO Box 1375, Water Mill, NY 11976. Offer your expertise and ideas through NP Central, ACNP, NAPNAP, NONPF, NCGNP or the NPNMC Editors' Listserv. Envelopes for collecting contributions at meetings and conferences are available through the ACNP (see last month's update) and contact with any of the volunteer board members is always welcome.

We are on the move!

Nursing Shortage Update

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Aging held a hearing on February 13th to address the country's nursing shortage. At this hearing, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) expressed concern about the nursing shortage and hoped that the Senate hearings would "be an opportunity to talk about solutions in the short and long term." Mikulski added, "We must look at what nurses, hospitals and other facilities, nursing schools, states, Congress and the federal government can do to combat this crisis."

Among others in Congress assuming a leadership role on this issue is Representative Lois Capps (D-CA), who recently announced that she would be working with Senators James Jeffords (R-VT), John Kerry (D-MA) and others to address this problem. Senator Jeffords announced at the February 13th hearing that the full HELP Committee will be holding a hearing on the nursing shortage issue this spring. No date has been set yet for this hearing.

From ACNP, Washington Word, March 2001.

IOM Report Urges Overhaul Of Health System

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued its latest report on the status of America's health care system on March 1st, charging that the system is failing and is in need of restructuring. IOM's report, *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*, made several recommendations for action by both Congress and the healthcare industry.

Among the recommendations, IOM's report urged Congress to create a \$1 billion "innovation fund" to finance projects targeted at improving the overall quality of health care. The last IOM report on the subject, issued in 1999, was highly publicized for attributing as many as 98,000 patient deaths each year to hospital errors. The 1999 report spurred congressional hearings and legislative proposals, and IOM committee members hope that *Crossing the Chasm* will do much the same.

The 2001 report adds that many of the health delivery systems' shortcomings are a direct result of a failure to implement technological advances. IOM urges a nationwide effort to eliminate most handwritten clinical data within the next ten years.

In another recommendation, IOM stated that the current health care system is designed to treat acute illnesses, rather than chronic conditions. To address this issue, it recommends that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality identify at least fifteen common health conditions as priority areas for which strategies and action plans for improving care for each condition can be developed.

Finally, the IOM was sure to clarify that this report should not be misconstrued as an indictment of healthcare professionals.

From ACNP, Washington Word, March 2001.

Nurse Anesthetist Legislation Opposed By CRNAs

Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) and Congressman David Weldon (R-FL) have introduced legislation to provide for a study of anesthesia services furnished under the Medicare program, and to expand arrangements under which certified registered nurse anesthetists may furnish such services. According to the February 22 edition of the Health Care Daily, S. 332 and H.R. 716, which require the report to be submitted no later than January 1, 2006, look at "three delivery models: 1) medical direction that requires substantial direct participation and involvement by an anesthesiologist; 2) medical supervision by a physician; and 3) collaboration, defined to involve joint management of anesthesia care by an immediately available credentialed physician and a nurse anesthetist pursuant to written agreement."

Nurse anesthetists are opposed to this legislation, which has been introduced in light of the Federal Register final regulation published on January 18 deferring to states on physician supervision of nurse anesthetists. However, this rule has been placed under moratorium by the Bush Administration, along with a number of other regulations that were ordered by the Clinton White House in his final days of the Presidency.

ACNP has contacted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services encouraging implementation of this rule, but the outcome of the potential study could result in changes to or an overturning of the regulation.

From ACNP, Washington Word, February 2001.

Privacy Regulations Update

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which became law in 1996, required the Department of Health and Human Services to submit detailed recommendations on standards with respect to the privacy of individually identifiable health information. Although this rule was published in the Federal Register on December 28, Congress and the comptroller as required under the Congressional Review

Act of 1996 did not receive it for review. HHS redelivered the information on February 13, leaving the rule to become effective sixty calendars thereafter (April 14). However, if it is disapproved, the rule will not be implemented.

From ACNP, Washington Word, February 2001.

Wanted
1200 NPs to Support
the
National NP Marketing Campaign!
Donate \$100 Today
Send Your Donation To:
PO Box 1375
Water Mill, NY 11976.
Get more information at www.nurse.net/mc

Classified Ads

Family Nurse Practitioner for Seattle

A new solo Family Practice in Pioneer Square, Seattle, Washington is looking for a Family Nurse Practitioner to oversee the clinic opening & ongoing operation. No physician on-site. Candidates must have 3+ yrs of experience as a NP in a primary care setting, a Masters Degree, and prescribing privileges/DEA#. The successful candidate will enjoy spending some time with clinic marketing and administration, as well as providing high quality patient care. Full time, M-F. Competitive salary & benefits package.

Fax, email, or mail resume to: Maddy Wiley, ARNP, FamilyCare of Kent, 10024 SE 240th Pl SE, Suite 201, Kent, WA 98031, Fax: 253.850.8894 Email: maddy.wiley@physio.strykercorp.com

ARNPs Bellingham to Tacoma Wanted

The Lantern Group, Inc. provides comprehensive mental health services to skilled nursing facilities. Hiring ARNPs with psychiatric medication expertise for geriatric population, one day per week. Programs are in place with signed orders and consents. Medicare B, Medicaid, and Secondary insurance billings provided. Call Dr. Bruce Lexa at (206) LANTERN (526-8376).

Position Desired

MSN/MPH, ANCC certified Family Nurse Practitioner relocating to Gig Harbor/Seattle/Tacoma area seeking employment in family medicine, urgent care or specialty setting. Currently serving as primary care/emergency provider in remote Alaska. Start dates flexible. Available for interview. email: roandja@earthlink.net. Phone: 907-383-3536. Resume available.

CE Announcements

New Faces of Insomnia

ARNPs United of Washington State will be sponsoring their 1st dinner CE program this Spring. Three sessions are being offered, all three start at 6:00pm with dinner being served at 6:30. On May 31, 2001 it is at the O'Callahan's in Everett. June 5, 2001 it is at the Holiday Inn Select in Renton, WA. On June 7, 2001 it is at the Doubletree Hotel in Spokane City Center. This event is made possible through an unrestricted educational grant from Pharmacia. There is no charge for dinner or CE credits. 1.2 CEUs are being granted for this presentation.

The program is being coordinated by Phyllis Zimmer and Fiona Shannon. RSVP required. Fax to 360.297.7688 or email fionafnp@amouse.net. For more information call 360.297.7660

WSNA Summit 2001

WSNA Biennial Convention, April 20-21, 2001 Pacific Lutheran University, University Center, Tacoma, WA For information: 206.575.7979

Clinical Pharmacology Series-2001

This annual update for nurses in advanced practice focuses on current recommendations in drug therapy in the primary care setting. For further information call 206-543-1047, email cne@u.washington.edu or web access at www.uwene.org

May 1, 2001. Women's Health Drug Therapy, Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle, WA

May 22, 2001. Adult Drug Therapy, Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle, WA

June 15, 2001. Neuropsychotropic Drug Therapy, Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle, WA

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*, 10024 SE 240th St, #102, Kent, WA 98031. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.480.0002. Email care@nurse.net

Healthy Humor

NP: "I can't understand why Mr Brown hasn't paid his bill yet."
Clerk: "He called and said that his recovery was such a miracle, he sent the check to his church instead."

ARNPs United of WA State

10024 S.E. 240th St., Suite #102, Kent, WA 98031
253.480.1035 Fax: 253.852.7725
Email: au@nurse.net
Web site: <http://www.nurse.org/wa/au/>

ARNP Care

10024 S.E. 240th St., Suite #102, Kent, WA 98031
253.852.9042 Fax: 253.852.7725
Email: care@nurse.net
Web site: <http://www.nurse.org/wa/arnpcare>

Editors:

Robert T. Smithing, MSN, ARNP
Madeline D. Wiley, MSN, ARNP

Associate Editor:

Marty Couret, MSN, ARNP

Contributing Editor:

Jerri Henry, ARNP

Production Staff:

Kimberly Couret
Alex Wiley Smithing

Publisher:

Nurse Practitioner Support Services

© 2001, Nurse Practitioner Support Services

Subscriptions are \$20 per year. tax included. Ad rate sheet available on request.



Return Service Requested

ARNP Care
10024 SE 240th St, Suite 102
Kent WA 98031

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kent, WA
Permit No. 69