

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Olver's Bill to Expand Access to ARNPs

Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) has introduced legislation that would require states to offer Medicaid coverage for primary care services provided by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). The Medicaid Nursing Incentive Act of 2003 (HR2295) would expand access to essential health care services while helping to control Medicaid spending. Currently, state Medicaid plans have the option to deny APRNs as primary care case managers.

In states that recognize only physicians, Medicaid beneficiaries have few provider options and less access to needed primary care services.

"In areas with a shortage of physicians, nurse practitioners can be more accessible," Olver said. "Current law, however, often denies Medicaid beneficiaries access to nurse practitioners, who are an important source of primary care services. Allowing nurse practitioners to be primary care providers under Medicaid is vital to improving health care in areas such as my district, a rural and medically underserved area."

Prior to 1997, federal law required state Medicaid programs to cover health care services provided by some APRNs. Some states opted to also cover the services of additional APRNs, mainly because these practitioners are willing to provide needed services in areas with a shortage of physicians. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 encouraged states to move Medicaid recipients into managed care, but failed to recognize APRNs as participants, thereby removing the federal mandate to include APRNs as Medicaid providers.

The Medicaid Nursing Incentive Act of 2003 would restore the previous federal mandate to cover the services of pediatric nurse practitioners, family nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives. The bill also would expand Medicaid fee-for-service coverage for all nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

"Medicaid reimburses nurse practitioners at a lower rate than physicians. At a time when state Medicaid programs are in financial crisis and doctors who accept Medicaid are overburdened, this bill offers a solution," Olver said.

The bill is endorsed by the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American College of Nurse Practitioners.

So call your US Representative and ask him to sign on in support of HB 2295. It only takes 30 seconds. If you don't know who your US representative is, go to www.house.gov and enter your zip code.

Mark Your Calendars and Don't Miss this Event!

The Washington State Nurses Association and the Seattle Storm are excited to announce a new partnership in a joint effort to promote health, nursing careers and women's professional basketball. WSNA and the Storm are hosting a special "Nursing Careers Night" on August 8th before the Storm take on the Minnesota Lynx at the Key Arena in Seattle. As part of this special night all students interested in the nursing profession, along with their family and friends, are invited to the game. From 5:00-6:00 pm, the Key Arena court will be dedicated to nurses and those interested in finding out more about nursing as a career. The pre-event will feature speakers who will talk about the impact of nursing and why young people should choose a career in the field. Tickets regularly priced at \$23 and \$18 are available for \$16 and \$12, and entrance to the pre-game nursing event is included. All seats will be in the lower bowl of the Key Arena and all have a great view of the action on court. Game time is 7:00 pm. Come join the fun! To order tickets at these reduced rates contact Amy Burdick at 206.272.2606 and tell her you want to order tickets for the "Nursing Career Night — August 8th".

SB 6088 Signed into Law

by Marty Couret

SB 6088 was designed to be an evidence-based prescription drug program that identifies preferred drugs, develop programs to provide prescription drugs at an affordable price to those in need, and increase public awareness regarding their safe and cost-effective use.

This bill also contained a clause in which the prescriber could sign the dispense as written portion of the prescription should the desired drug not be on the plan. This part of the bill was under threat of a partial veto.

Thanks to the immediate action of nurses and nurse practitioners, this bill was signed by the governor completely intact. Thank you again for your rapid response.

ICONS Need Help

Please help ICONS, the Interagency Collaborative On Nursing Statistics, (<http://www.iconsdata.org/>) update its online resources listing of data, information, and research about nurses, nursing education, and nursing workforce.

If you or your organization/agency/enterprise have studies, reports, surveys, databases, and associated research tools and survey instruments that address quantitative and qualitative aspects of data, information, and research about nurses, nursing education, and nursing workforce, ICONS would like to include that resource

and appropriate contact information in the online listing. For example, do you conduct membership surveys that describe nurses, nursing education, or the nursing workforce or trend and track a specialty practice? Have you completed a role delineation study that describes workforce and workplace characteristics? Can graduate, doctoral, or other researchers purchase membership lists or address labels to invite participant enrollment? One time or recurrent surveys and reports are valuable contributions to our understanding of nurses, nursing education, or the nursing workforce.

Help us complete our very ambitious update by forwarding a list of available resources, a brief description of the content, and most important, the current mail and telephone contact for each item to ICONS representative Carol J. Bickford, PhD, RN,C at cbickfor@ana.org by July 31, 2003. If you have questions, please call Dr. Bickford at 202.651.7060 or contact any other ICONS member on www.iconsdata.org/membershiplist.htm.

CHILD Profile Immunization Registry: Why Have It & What's In It For Providers?

by Margo Harris

Immunization registries have become an important part of the public health infrastructure in all 50 states. (Additional details: www.cdc.gov/nip/registry/Default.htm). Healthy People 2010 states that all children from birth to age six will be enrolled in a fully functional immunization registry. The CHILD Profile Immunization Registry is "on track" and actively gathering data from the public section of Washington State birth records to meet this goal. Additional immunization data is added to each record when a child visits a private or public health care provider who enters data into the registry, building the capacity of the registry's database.

Currently, more than 80% of public providers statewide are enrolled in the registry and sharing data in the registry. To meet the definition of "fully functional" and offer a database with full impact, private providers also need to enroll in large numbers and enter data for patient immunizations. Statewide, more than 10% of private providers have joined the Immunization Registry. More providers are added each month as CHILD Profile actively markets the registry's benefits.

Who benefits from the registry? CHILD Profile educates parents, safeguards immunization records, and benefits state and local public health by encouraging complete immunization. Additionally, CHILD Profile offers health care providers a wide range of beneficial services:

- Access immunization records for children who don't have records or have moved or changed providers.
- Consolidate children's immunization information and add new records.

- Print individual immunization records whenever parents need them – for child care, school, and camp.
- Manage immunizations by identifying children who need or have missed shots.
- Receive updates and alerts on vaccines and recommendations of immunizations needed.
- Generate reports, including individual immunization records and clinic immunization assessments.
- Connect with patients on a regular basis through immunization and well-child visit reminders in the CHILD Profile health promotion mailings.

From the national to the state level, issues of privacy, confidentiality, and security have been addressed. CHILD Profile has a specific statement for providers that explains how participation in the immunization registry relates to HIPAA and RCW 70.02, Washington's Health Care Information Access and Disclosure Act. Call or email the Help Desk to request your free copy. CHILD Profile is a secure and permanent record accessible only to health care providers who have registered to participate.

For more information or to register, contact:
CHILD Profile Help Desk, Phone: 800.325.5599 or
206.205.4141, Email: cphelpdesk@metrokc.gov.

Classified Ads

Family Nurse Practitioner Tacoma, WA

A new solo NP based family practice in Tacoma, Washington is looking for a Family Nurse Practitioner. Ideal candidate will have 3+ years of experience as a FNP in a primary care setting, a Masters Degree, and prescribing privileges/DEA#. This is a community based practice model with an innovative approach to primary care especially to clients with chronic illness. Flexible hours, full and part time positions.

Fax, email, or mail resume to: Bob Smithing, ARNP, NP Central, 10024 SE 240th St SE, #102, Kent, WA 98031, Fax: 253.852.7725 Email: bsmithing@nurse.net

FNP

Full-time opening for a nurse practitioner to work at multiple urgent care centers and primary care clinics, with a primary home base 80% of the time in Lakewood, WA. Primary responsibility is to provide quality healthcare to patients of all ages. Flexibility in work location required. Experience in urgent care and family practice is preferred. Candidates must be, or qualified for licensure & certification in Washington State as an ARNP & RN.

Competitive salary and comprehensive benefit package. Please send resume to: MultiCare Health System, Provider Services, P.O. Box 5299, Tacoma, WA 98415-0299; Fax 253.403.5431; Email: providerservices@multicare.org. Please visit our website at <http://www.multicare.org>.

Nurse Practitioner - Certified - Family Medicine

Full-time opening for a nurse practitioner to work at multiple urgent care centers and primary care clinics, with a primary home base 80% of the time in Lakewood, WA. Primary responsibility is to provide quality healthcare to patients of all ages.

Flexibility in work location required. Experience in urgent care and family practice is preferred. Candidates must be, or qualified for licensure & certification in Washington State as an ARNP & RN. Competitive salary and comprehensive benefit package. Please send resume to: MultiCare Health System, Provider Services, P.O. Box 5299, Tacoma, WA 98415-0299; Fax 866-264-2818; Email: providerservices@multicare.org. Please visit our website at www.multicare.org.

"Multicare Health System is a drug free workplace"

Nurse Practitioner - Heart Center

Their trust. Your talent. Your life's work.

Giving the best care possible. That's what it's all about. Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center invites you to join them in addressing the needs of our patients and their families through a family-centered care philosophy. If you dream of doing your best work - your life's work - with children, consider the following:

Provide direct clinical care, case management, education program development, consultation and leadership for our Heart Center patients. Position also provides clinical focus support for cardiac surgery and heart transplant patients as well as clinical back-up for cardiology and EP patients. Master's in Nursing, ARNP license and WA State prescriptive authority/licensure required. Pediatric Nursing and Cardiac experience preferred.

We offer competitive pay and benefits. To apply online visit our Web site at: www.seattlechildrens.org or send your resume to: Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, PO Box 50020, S-201, Seattle, WA 98145-5020. EOE.

Office Space

Looking to start your own practice? Sub-lease space at Integrative Medicine. Join with an ARNP, ND, and Lac to truly offer the best of integrated medicine. 2-3 days/week available. Contact Janile Martin at Integrative Medicine, 1601 116th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004, 425-454-8542, drjanile@integrativemedicine-bellevue.com.

ARNP Position in Bellingham

The Lantern Group Inc. provides comprehensive mental health services to skilled nursing facilities. Recruiting ARNP with geriatric medication expertise for geriatric population at Bellingham Healthcare & Rehabilitation Services in Bellingham. Approximately one day per week, flexible with your schedule. You consult and make recommendations; the attending physician writes the orders. MedicareB, Medicaid, and Secondary insurance billings provided. Please call Dr. Bruce Leksa at 206.LANTERN (526.8376).

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with at least one year of clinical experience needed for a part-time position. We are a growing pediatric office with a special interest in complementary medicine. Salary is negotiable. Fax resumes to Kelly at 206-957-1895.

Family Nurse Practitioner Gig Harbor

An established family practice clinic in beautiful Gig Harbor, is looking for a full-time (4 days a week) ARNP. Ideal candidate will have 2+ years experience as a FNP in a primary care setting, a Masters degree, and prescribing privileges/DEA#.

Competitive salary & benefits package. Our clinic has seven Physicians and one Nurse Practitioner.

Fax, email, or mail resume to: Cheryl Vettors, 4700 Point Fosdick Drive, Suite #220, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Fax: 253.852.5184, Email missvpfmc@aol.com

Obesity is the number one health problem that faces the US today

Sound Health Solutions (SHS) is a local medically managed obesity and health-risk management program that provides a safe and effective alternative to weight-loss surgery. Each personalized and comprehensive program consists of physician-supervised nutritional therapy, behavioral therapy and exercise with a personal trainer. Programs provide the support system and framework necessary to teach patients to make long-term lifestyle changes that lead to weight-loss and the reversal or prevention of serious co-morbid illnesses that develop as a result of obesity. SHS does not promote or sell food supplements or meal replacements.

In 1997, two Bellevue-based internal medicine physicians developed the SHS program in order to effectively combat the obesity epidemic. Practitioners generally have little time to address obesity in the office setting, which leaves many obese patients feeling helpless to combat their illness. SHS outcomes-based programs have been highly effective in helping patients reduce or eliminate medication and improve their overall health and quality of life. SHS has gathered data over the last six years from 300 clients, and results show that as little as a 5% weight loss can prevent or reverse the health problems experience by obese patients, such as diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, GERD, sleep apnea, back problems and 200 other diseases.

The Microsoft Corporation offers SHS programs as a benefit for qualified individuals. If you have obese patients who are Microsoft employees, they may qualify for coverage under their benefit plan. If you are concerned about a patient's weight, we welcome you to refer them to SHS for a complimentary consultation with one of our physicians. SHS is located in Bellevue and will be opening a second office in Issaquah in September.

For more information, contact Sound Health Solutions: 425.747.6000, info@4shs.com or www.4shs.com

CE Opportunities

Women's Healthcare Conference

Date: October 17, 2003 **Description:** Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Seattle. Registration Fee: \$100 for nursing - 7.2 approved nursing hours for brochure contact: Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org or 425-261-3690

Nurse Foot Care Training Program

Date: November 7 & 8, 2003 **Description:** A comprehensive foot care seminar will be held at the Providence Campus of Swedish Hospital in Seattle. The seminar is sponsored by the Washington State Podiatric Medical Association and includes 16 hours of classroom and an optional 16 hours of clinical in-office exposure. For more information, check the link on our website wspma.org or contact: Susan K. Scanlan DPM, Nwpodiatry@wspma.org, 1.866.343.6999, PO Box 1183, Winthrop, WA 98862

19th Annual Infectious Disease Conference

Date: December 11-13, 2003 **Description:** Four Seasons Olympic Hotel, Seattle. Registration Fee: \$350 (includes 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, breaks and syllabus). 16.5 CEU's. For further information Fax: 425-261-3695 or Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org

Advances in AMI Care: Acute Management and Secondary Prevention

Date: September 29, 2003 **Description:** This one-day conference will bring together experts in the clinical management of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and secondary prevention of coronary artery disease to provide participants an update on advances in the acute care of patients with AMI and secondary prevention. The information presented will enable healthcare providers to optimize the care of AMI patients. Where: Doubletree Hotel, SeaTac Airport Cost: \$85. Additional funding is provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Registration: www.qualishealth.org For more information contact Rosa Johnson at Qualis Health, 206.364.9700, ext. 2142. Continuing education credits pending for physicians, nurses, and pharmacists.

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 253.852.7725. Email care@nurse.net.

ARNPs United of WA State

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Web site: http://www.nurse.org/wa/au/

Healthy Humor

Q: ? What would the world be like without wheels
A: It would be a real drag!

ARNP Care

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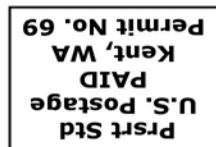
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