

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

February 2004

## Nurse Legislative Day a Huge Success

by Marty Couret

On January 26th hundreds of nurses descended on Olympia. Among them were 32 ARNPs who made it to the ARNPs United legislative lunch where they were briefed on the hot topics affecting ARNPs. After lunch we all marched up to the capitol with our issues in hand. Together we met with countless representatives. Leaving with them AUWS' legislative agenda and a fact sheet about ARNPs. Many of the legislators still didn't know who we are and what we do!

The Labor and Industries issue was a key topic for us. We found that most legislators are supportive of HB 1691 which fixes the problem ARNPs have been having with L & I. Of particular interest were the discussions of the liability crisis, we found that legislators were coming to us for support of their position. They also appreciated AUWS trying to solve the problem without drawing lines in the sand. We reinforced that any malpractice reform had to include increasing patient safety and maintaining access to care.

It was empowering to run into other ARNPs all over the Capitol Hill meeting with legislators. We shared legislator responses and tips on how to phrase the issues. The visibility of the ARNPs in Olympia increases our influence on health care policy. Thank you to all who attended.

Go to our website [www.nurse.org/wa/au](http://www.nurse.org/wa/au) for more info.

## Legislative Update

by Marty Couret

The short legislative session is in full swing with bills that concern ARNPs everywhere. Here is a run down of some of the more important ones from an ARNP's point of view. This is not a complete list of bills we are weighing in on, just the most interesting at this time. We will continue to watch for troublesome amendments.

**HB 1691:** This L&I bill would allow ARNPs to be declared attending providers for all L&I claims. ARNPs already provide great care at a lower cost than physicians to L&I patients but the restriction of signing certain forms has created significant barriers. It was voted out of the House and is now in the Senate. We will need continued support through the rest of the session.

**SB 6474 & HB 3151:** This bill addresses cost containment measures being taken by Washington State and excludes drugs used to treat mental illness. Excluding these drugs will enable patients who are well managed on specific psychotropic medications, or who would benefit from these medications, to have access to them.

It essentially creates an open formulary for medications used to treat mental illness. We consider this an access to care issue.

**HB 2449:** This "scope of practice bill" would make it difficult for ARNPs and all other health professions to achieve legislative changes in the future. There is serious concern that it would make it more difficult to get rid of the Joint Practice Agreement for scheduled medications. This bill appears to very similar to one proposed by the AMA as a model for states. The bill is designed to contain nurse practitioners and other "physician extenders" from changing their current scope of practice. AUWS is watching this bill closely.

**HB 1828:** We support this bill that would require insurance coverage of mental health services at parity with medical and surgical services. Other members of the Mental Health Parity Coalition also support it.

**SB 5767:** would have allowed out of state ARNPs have their prescriptions filled in WA. It will once again not make it to the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee due to opposition from the Pharmacy Association.

## Liability Insurance

by Marty Couret

We are monitoring several bills that aim to solve the malpractice crisis through 1) Patient Safety 2) Access to Health Care 3) Caps on non-economic damages 4) Better transparency and accountability of insurance companies. For more information on this complicated topic go to our web site [www.nurse.org/wa/au](http://www.nurse.org/wa/au).

## Medicare Prescription Drug Bill Approved

from Washington Word, Jan-04

The Medicare Prescription drug bill was signed into law by President Bush December 8, 2003.

The full text of the bill and a summary can be found at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> While the final bill did not include the home health/SNF provisions that ACNP worked hard to include, ACNP will continue to work with members of Congress to be sure those provisions are kept on the burners for future opportunities.

The Prescription Drug bill will prevent the 4.5% reimbursement provider cut and will ensure positive updates over the next two years of no less that 1.5%. The hospice provision included in the Medicare Prescription Drug bill (expanding the definition of an attending physician to include NPs) is not limited to rural areas; it should apply in all geographical settings.

In addition, the Medicare bill amends the Social Security Act regarding payment for durable medical equip-

ment (DME) by adding a section on "Clinical Conditions for Coverage," which requires the Secretary to establish standards for payment for covered DME items. The Secretary must also specify which covered items require face-to-face exam from MDs, NPs, PAs and CNS'. Anytime NPs are mentioned specifically is a positive step.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of "Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases" Now Available

from IAC Express, #443, 09-Feb-04

The 8th edition of "Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases," widely known as the "Pink Book," is now available in print for purchase and online for free downloading.

A comprehensive source of current epidemiologic data and vaccine recommendations, the 8th edition includes a new chapter on meningococcal disease.

The cost of the "Pink Book" is \$29 plus shipping and handling. To order a copy, choose one of the following methods: call 877.252.1200 or 800.418.7246 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm ET; send a fax order with credit card or purchase order information to (301) 843-0159; or visit the Public Health Foundation (PHF) bookstore at: <http://bookstore.phf.org/prod171.htm>

To print a ready-to-copy (PDF) format of the entire "Pink Book" or selected chapters, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/pink>

### A Chance to be Truly Politically Active

from Judy Huntington, WSNA

**Attention All Nurses** -- Now is your chance to get truly politically active: first, make plans to get involved the Presidential Races by attending either the Democrat or Republican Caucuses and second, by checking out WSNA's new CapWiz Statewide Grassroots Lobbying tools. If you are a Democrat: The Democrats held their caucuses February 7, 2004 at neighborhood locations throughout Washington.

The Republicans will hold their caucuses on Tuesday evening, March 9th at 8:00 pm. You can find out the location of your caucus by going to the Republican Party Web site: [www.wsrp.org](http://www.wsrp.org). The Republicans are still determining locations and will post location information the week of February 9th. **All politics are local -- Don't be a bystander -- get involved -- now!**

Also, check out the new WSNA statewide grassroots lobbying feature now available on the WSNA website. Go to [www.wsna.org](http://www.wsna.org) and click on CapWiz. You will be linked to one of the most powerful messaging tools on the Web! In the coming weeks, WSNA's CapWiz will include: Action Alerts, Voting Records and Text of Bills Summaries and Analysis of Key Bills Talking Points and Messages Searchable Directories of the WA Con-

gressional delegation, the Governor's Office, State House and Senate, local officials and media contacts. You will be able to use pre-printed or custom messages to be sent via e-mail or to be printed and faxed or mailed. Plus, you can email your friends to urge them to action too!

### Five-Part Health Plan Proposal Announced

from Washington Word, Jan-04

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) has unveiled a proposal to improve the nation's health care system by using technological advances. The Senator said that the current system "often seems fragmented, redundant, inefficient and bureaucratic." (Clinton press release, January 12, 2004). By better using information, Senator Clinton said that the delivery system can be streamlined and modernized to improve quality and affordability. Clinton's legislation would create a nationwide electronic system to enable American health providers to share health records. Some doctors, hospitals and pharmacies already use electronic health records in areas like paperless prescriptions. But electronic medical records aren't widely used, and Clinton says a government-created system with special standards could change that.

### Health Care Access & Affordability to be Studied by Senate

from Washington Word, Jan-04

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN), has appointed a task force of Republican senators to look at ways to improve health care accessibility and affordability. Sen. Judd Gregg (NH), chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, will chair the task force. Other members are John Cornyn (TX), Mike Enzi (WY), Chuck Grassley (IA), Orin Hatch (UT), John Kyl (AZ), Don Nickles (OK), Pete Sessions (AL), Olympia Snowe, (ME), and Jim Talent (MO). One issue the task force will concentrate on is the rising number of uninsured Americans, which now stands at 43 million. "Those without health insurance are young and old, employed and unemployed, prosperous and poor," said Gregg. (Frist press release October 23, 2003).

### New Bioterrorism Brochure Available

from Washington Word, Jan-04

Facing Fear Together, a campaign organized by America's Health Together, a partnership of national mental health and primary care organizations, has published a toolkit for primary care providers "treating the symptoms of trauma in a time of terrorism." This informative piece details symptoms of trauma, includes information about treating a worried population, and other helpful statistics. ACNP is a participating partner in this project, and copies of this brochure are available free of charge to ACNP members. For free copies of this bro-

chure, call the ACNP office at 202.659.2190 or email [Jamie@acnpweb.org](mailto:Jamie@acnpweb.org). America's Health Together has pioneered a groundbreaking partnership among the nation's leading mental health and primary care organizations to respond to America's new exposure to homeland terrorism. Fully supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this national initiative seeks to enhance primary care providers' awareness of mental health issues and strengthen their capacity to care for their patients' emotional and psychological needs.

### FDA Counterfeit Drug Alert Network

from Washington Word, Jan-04

Beginning in 2004, ACNP will be a participant in the FDA's Counterfeit Drug Alert Network. The Network will be used to notify providers, pharmacists, pharmacies/drug stores in the event that counterfeit drug is discovered in commerce.

As a participant in the Network, ACNP will send alert messages to our members to help the FDA deliver its educational materials to providers, and provide a link to the FDA's website where a provider could report suspected counterfeits.

ARNPs United will forward alerts on to our members when we receive them.

### Product Announcements

#### For NP Patients

NP Direct RX Program, <http://www.npdrx.com>, lets NP Patients place orders over the Internet with tremendous savings on prescription drugs. NP Direct RX offers patients the opportunity to purchase their medications at more affordable prices and enjoy the ease of home delivery. This web-based program allows for order placement and tracking from the convenience of the patient's home.

### Classified Ads

#### Nurse Practitioner

Planned Parenthood of Central Washington is looking for only the best! Enjoy everything Central Washington has to offer, from wine country to the great outdoors! We are looking for a NP for our Tri-Cities clinic that wants to make a difference in the lives of countless women, men and children. Enjoy a 37 1/2-hour workweek in a clinical setting and make an impact on the community. Women's health care and prescriptive authority preferred. We offer a very competitive wage and benefit package and awesome PTO. Relocation assistance and a signing bonus are available. Send resumes to [lopez@ppcentwa.org](mailto:lopez@ppcentwa.org), fax to (509) 576-8685, or mail to 208 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Yakima, WA 98902. Learn more about us at [www.ppcentwa.org](http://www.ppcentwa.org)

#### Sublease Opportunity

Two well established podiatric physicians looking to sublease space in a new practice location. The new space is conveniently located one block north of Overlake Hospital in a medi-

cal office complex. The space is priced at \$26/per square feet a month. The sublease total would be base on amount of space required for the practitioner and prorating of the shared expensed. If interested, please contact Dr Suzanne Wilson at 206-242-6553

#### Adult Cardiac Opportunity

Tacoma General Hospital, a part of Multicare Health System, located in Tacoma, WA, just 30 miles south of Seattle on the shores of the Puget Sound, is searching for a full time cardiothoracic surgical ARNP. This position is as an integral part of our adult cardiothoracic surgery team. Responsibilities will primarily include first assist in the operating room as well as pre and postoperative patient care in hospital and office. Position requires five years experience as a cardiothoracic ARNP and minimum of three years experience as a cardiothoracic surgery first assist. Experience with endoscopic saphenous vein harvesting and radial artery harvesting preferred. Prescriptive authority required. This new position is being created to support rising surgical volumes and a multi-million dollar physical plant expansion which will add new state of the art OR's, heart rooms, and PACU. The Puget Sound is a wonderful place to live and work and Tacoma is one of the most picturesque cities in Washington. The area has long attracted people for its beauty and variety of outdoor activities. You can enjoy the thrill of downhill skiing in the morning, sail your boat on the open waterways in the afternoon, take in a Broadway play or a major sporting event in the evening and dine at one of our 5 star restaurants. There is something for everyone in the Northwest. Multicare Health System offers an excellent salary with a full array of benefits coupled with a great place to practice makes this opportunity ideal. Please forward CV's to [providerservices@multicare.org](mailto:providerservices@multicare.org) or fax toll free to 1-866-264-2818. For further information please contact Provider Services at 800-621-0301 to inquire about opportunity ID# 234. Multicare Health System is a drug free.

### CE Opportunities

#### The Washington State Chapter National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners: Annual Pediatric Update

**Date:** March 5, 2004; **Location:** Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle, Washington. Topics will include orthopedics, cardiology, reflux, autism/developmental, and neurological issues. Conference fee is \$125/members, \$125/students or \$150/non-members (includes one year membership). Contact hours: 7.0 For details, email [nancy.nelson@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:nancy.nelson@seattlechildrens.org) or visit [www.nurse.org/wa/napnap](http://www.nurse.org/wa/napnap). Ave., Suite 200, Tacoma, WA 98402. Email [h1harrisonjr@cs.com](mailto:h1harrisonjr@cs.com).

### Organization Meetings

#### ARNPs United Dinner Program

**Date:** Thursday, February 19, 2004, 6:30 **Where:** Lombardi's in Everett Come join ARNPs from around the North Puget Sound. We will be enjoying a wonderful evening of education and networking. We will start the evening with a 30 minute presentation on Anxiety and Depression followed by a 30 minute question and answer period. Over dessert we will discuss the legislative session. This event is sponsored by Pfizer. To RSVP call Jennifer Soler 800.233.7241 X-76385.

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 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 of less than 65 words are \$70, of 66 to 130 words are \$105, of 131 words or greater are \$130. 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  
10024 S.E. 240<sup>th</sup> 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/

Healthy Humor – Remakes of ‘60s Songs  
Herman’s Hermits – “Mrs. Brown, You’ve Got a Lovely Walker”  
The Bee Gees – “How Can You Mend a Broken Hip”  
Commodores – “Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom”  
Bobby Darin – “Splish, Splash, I Was Havin’ a Flash”

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