

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Victory is Ours!! Labor & Industries Bill Passed!

by Marty Couret

With the help of an amazing Legislative Committee, a very good lobbyist, and a fantastic grassroots effort from NPs all over the state, HB 1691 passed. What makes this more amazing is that this was a short session (60 days) with ugly politics all over Olympia. Persistence was the key. This labor and industries bill has been on our legislative agenda for more than 4 years.

So what does this bill do? ARNPs will be able to perform all of the functions as an "Attending" provider without any physician intervention or supervision for L&I claims. For 10 years a co-signature was required for the Accident Report and Timeloss forms. We are still waiting for Governor Gary Locke to sign the bill. That should happen by the time you are reading this. At which point the Law will take effect on July 1, 2004.

This will be a trial period for 2 years. Bills get passed with compromise. A 2 year Sunset Clause was the concession that we needed to make to get our opposition (Association of Washington Businesses) to let the bill through. A Sunset Clause is a time-limiting statement in a bill. During this time Labor and Industries will do a study as to the financial feasibility of ARNPs as "Attending" providers for L&I claims. We then take this study to the legislature in 2006 showing that ARNPs provide quality care at an equal or lower cost of physicians to get rid of the sunset clause.

This study is important for two reasons. First, it will be one more study showing the quality of care Nurse Practitioners provide. Second, since Washington is one of the few states to allow ARNPs to become the "Attending" for L&I, this research will be essential to ARNPs in other states trying to obtain the same privilege.

I want to take this time to remind everyone that 75% of the membership dues went straight to paying for our lobbyist. Without a lobbyist in Olympia, none of this would have been possible. If please take this time to go to our website and become a member. Remember we will have to address this again in 2006.

Thank you again for all of your support.

Open Door Forums at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

by Marty Couret

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has open door forums to help providers navigate the system and get problems solved. These forums are an effort to increase accessibility to CMS. This is a great resource

when normal Medicare/Medicaid channels have been exhausted. Call in to the next forum and get your Medicare conundrums addressed. The next open door forum is scheduled for March 18th. Go to the CMS website and get email reminders for the time and date of upcoming meetings. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor>.

What Have We Done for ARNPs Lately?

by Marty Couret

ARNPs have been able to sign death certificates for over 4 years; however, the current Washington Certificates of Death does not reflect that ability. ARNPs United contacted the Department of Health to change the form. Unfortunately, two weeks before our call, the DOH printed thousands of copies with Certifying Physician in box 48a. However, Tami Jones of the Department of Health assured ARNPs United that they will make the change on the next year's forms. In the mean time feel free to sign death certificates on the old forms.

What is the Effect of the New Law Allowing ARNPs to Prescribe Controlled Substances?

by Louise Kaplan and Marie Annette Brown

In the year 2000, the Washington State Legislature passed a law completing nurse practitioner (NP) prescriptive authority by adding schedule II-IV drugs. In August 2001, Washington implemented the law requiring NPs to collaborate and have a joint practice agreement (JPA) with a physician. Many NPs hailed this law because it was sufficiently flexible to allow for minimal physician involvement. Others worried that implementation of the law would create unforeseen barriers to practice. Any level of physician involvement was considered problematic for some NPs.

Two nurse practitioners, Louise Kaplan from WSU-Vancouver and Marie-Annette Brown from the University of Washington, recently surveyed NPs about their experiences in prescribing Schedule II-IV drugs. They sent a questionnaire to all Washington State NPs just before implementation of the law and nearly two years later to determine whether or not prescribing schedule II-IV drugs with indirect physician involvement eliminated barriers to autonomous practice.

The researchers compared barriers identified by NPs both before and after implementation of the new law. They have extensive information about NP practice in Washington as well as prescribing issues. One of their research findings was that at the time of the second survey, less than half of NPs had obtained this prescribing authority.

While the current law eliminated some barriers to practice, it created others such as, a requirement for a JPA.

The application process to obtain schedule II-IV prescriptive authority also created new barriers.

When they looked at the experiences of NPs with and without schedule II-IV authority separately, they found that some NPs without schedule II-IV authority felt they "did not need these medications in their practice." In addition, many NPs (both with and without schedule II-IV authority) wanted to avoid working with people perceived as having "drug-seeking behavior" and felt they lacked expertise prescribing some or all schedule II-IV drugs.

Following-up on their study findings, Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Brown are now conducting focus groups with NPs across the state. They want to better understand nurse practitioners' experiences in prescribing these medications including concerns regarding possible drug seeking behavior and the need for more information. They will be at the University of Washington School of Nursing's clinical pharmacology courses to conduct focus groups. They are inviting NPs with and without schedule II-IV prescriptive authority to attend these upcoming discussion groups. Information about the focus groups will be available at each course.

Professional Presence in a Great Profession

by Susan Eastman

You may be thinking: what is it and do I have it or why is it important and how do I get it?

An article I read recently had such an impact on me that I want to share a few of the points Vicki D. Lachman, RN, CS, CNAA, PhD, wrote about. She mentions 6 values that characterize professional presence. I found this list very challenging.

- Self-confidence and self esteem. Balance and staying focused in one's life while seeking feedback from your colleagues re: strengths and weaknesses. WOW!!!
- Comfort with uncertainty. There is a difference between self control and control of others.
- Integrity
- Optimism with a "can do" attitude!
- Passion for our work
- Empathy – trying to understand another person's perspective is critical to our profession.

As the author developed each of these ideas she forged ahead with challenges I felt "stretched" me! Then she gave some action tips to gain and enhance professional presence.

In our uncertain world, Linda J. Pearson, Editor in chief of the NP journal reminds us, the public still loves all nurses and we are justified in our pride for the nursing profession.

Our challenge is to learn to exude professional presence and continue to earn and honor the public's trust in us!

(You can find these articles in the magazine "the 2004 Sourcebook for Advanced Practice Nurses" and authors are listed above.)

Medicaid Services by APNs

This web site, released jointly by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), is a comprehensive, detailed database with information about Medicaid benefits states cover. Data was collected in January 2003 and updated. Go to:
<http://207.22.102.105/medicaidbenefits/index.html>

Classified Ads

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 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 workplace"

Nurse Practitioner

Tacoma Family Medicine residency program seeks p/t or f/t certified nurse practitioner with at least two years experience in prenatal management. TFM is a part of MultiCare Health System and is affiliated with the University of Washington affiliated family practice residency network. This position will be responsible for providing comprehensive primary care in all aspects of family practice, working directly with faculty, residents and fellows in providing patient care. Please visit the

residency program at tacomafamilymedicine.org. Please email your CV to MultiCare Health System at provider_services@multicare.org or fax your CV to 866-264-2818
 "MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace"

Nurse Practitioner – Psychiatric Mental Health

The Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington is now accepting applications for the following position for both the VA Medical Center and the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Yakima, Washington:

Qualification includes MSN required for APN. Advanced Nurse Practitioner requires certification by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Accreditation Program in related area of practice. Current unrestricted license in any state. Clinical nursing experience in the management of a panel of adult psychiatric chronically mentally ill patients. Duties include consultations, diagnosis, education, and treatment of patients primarily with, but not limited to, medication management. Excellent benefits, such as health/life insurance, vacation/sick leave, and a generous retirement system. Applicants may be subject to drug screening test. Contact Human Resources Department at 509-527-3453; VA Medical Center, 77 Wainwright Drive, Walla Walla, WA 99362. E.O.E.

ARNP

Busy Cardiology practice looking for an ARNP to work approximately 30 hrs/wk in lipid and CHF clinic. Must have recent cardiology or Internal Medicine experience, work well independently, have excellent assessment, diagnostic and communication skills. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to 509.462.3142 or mail to ICA, Attn: Dott, 122 W. 7th Ave. #450, Spokane, WA 99204.

ARNP

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission currently has a vacancy for an ARNP member. If you have been an ARNP for five years, active within the last two and a resident of Washington you may qualify. The Governor appoints members to serve four-year terms. Typical duties of commission members include licensing, discipline, regulation, policy and many other health care related issues. Commission members attend six meetings per year and are reimbursed for travel related expenses and receive \$250 per day. The Governor will be making his selection in the next month. Interested applicants can download an application from the web site at www.doh.wa.gov/nursing by selecting "commission info" or by e-mail at terry.west@doh.wa.gov or call Terry West at (360) 236-4712 for an application to be sent to you.

ARNP-OB/GYN

5 MD OB/GYN practice seeks ARNP with OB/GYN &/or women's health care experience. Come join our great group in a great location. Team player a must. Send CV & cover letter to Rhonda Barrett, Administrator, Bellingham OB/GYN Associates, 2980 Squalicum Parkway #301, Bellingham, WA 98225

Family Practice Nurse Practitioner

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe of Longview, Washington is seeking a fulltime Family Practice Nurse Practitioner to serve as the primary medical provider for its Tribal Clinic. The starting salary for this position is \$50 to \$60,000 annually depending upon qualifications and work experience including full fringe

benefits package. For more information contact Ms. Lori Morris, Tribal CHS Manager at 360-575-8275:

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 or visit www.nurse.org/wa/napnap.

DBT Conference Seattle

Date: May 1-2, 2004 **Location:** Mutual Conference Center near Sea-Tac. We all have patients who are challenging, and, at times, exasperating to treat. These patients may have Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) or many of its symptoms.

The AAPPN (Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses) Conference Planning Committee believes they have a mandate from the membership to sponsor a Dialectic Behavioral Therapy (DBT) conference. AAPPN Conference Planning Committee is delighted to announce that Marsha Linnehan, PhD, the developer of Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, will be our conference Keynote Speaker. To further enhance this experience, Dr. Linnehan's training team will be presenting a two day DBT training session for the AAPPN 2004 conference.

The conference committee has worked with the Linnehan group to structure the DBT training for Psychiatric ARNPs. Our goal is to have attendees learn specific DBT strategies and interventions to treat/manage BPD. This conference will also provide the opportunity to network with colleagues.

The conference will be held on May 1st and 2nd at the beautiful Washington Mutual Conference Center near Sea-Tac. For more information about this exciting conference, please contact AAPPN at 206.524.4090 or 888.308.7336.

11th Conference on Occupational Hazards to Health Care Workers

Date: May 18-20, 2004 **Location:** Vancouver, British Columbia Over 30 experts will present a series of platform sessions and workshops with up-to-date information on how to protect health care workers in a variety of settings. This dynamic conference will take place in beautiful Vancouver, BC. Sponsors: University of Washington & University of British Columbia.

Topics include: Reducing injuries in health care, Bioaerosols, Considering ergonomics in designing health care facilities, Reducing lifting hazards, Preventing transmission of blood-borne diseases, Emerging threats to health care workers, Violence in health care facilities, NIOSH research and surveillance, An international perspective on health and safety, SARS and health care workers, Ordering and using sharps, Effects of job strain on health workers, Emotional labor at work, and Depression and health care workers.

Speaker list, course details and registration information: (800) 326-7568 or <http://depts.washington.edu/ehce>

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.

Healthy Humor

A man walked into the office of the eminent mental health nurse practitioner Patty Scott, and sat down to explain. "Patty! I've got this problem," the man said. "I keep hallucinating that I'm a dog. It's crazy. I don't know what to do!" "A common canine complex," said the nurse practitioner soothingly. "Relax. Come here and lie down on the couch." "Oh no, Patty," the man said nervously, "I'm not allowed up on the furniture."

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