

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

June 2004

## Malpractice Insurance Fraud Practitioners Beware

By Susan Caverly

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner has publicized information about a fraud involving malpractice insurance that is directed at providers. This is a nationwide scam and practitioners may be under the impression that they are currently carrying malpractice insurance when in fact they do not.

**Professional Liability Insurance Company Limited (PLIC)** is the primary entity involved in this fraud, but there are multiple other persons or companies. Note there are names of legitimate insurance organizations that are similar so it is important that practitioners carefully review their policy provider names.

Other entities that are associated with the fraudulent insurer include:

- William A. LeDee III, of Atlanta, Georgia, and Ft Lauderdale, Florida
- LeDee and Associates, LLC, Atlanta
- Jennifer Anderson, using the AKA of "Brook Harris", Atlanta
- Matthew Reed, Atlanta
- Unimed Insurance Company, Atlanta (while there are legitimate companies called Unimed, these do not provide malpractice coverage)
- Professional Liability Insurance Corporation, Atlanta
- James Reynolds or Steven J. Reynolds: believed to be an AKA used by LeDee, Atlanta or Florida
- Physicians Malpractice Analysts, Inc, Atlanta
- PLIC Claims Management, Inc, Atlanta
- Crowne Global Group, Ltd, Bermuda
- Medical Risk Associates, RPG, Inc, Bermuda and Tortola

Practitioners who have a policy with one of these entities in fact have **no** Coverage. If you are one of these practitioners please contact the office of the Insurance Commissioner at 360.725.7049 phone, 360.586.3109 fax, or email tedb@oic.wa.org

The OIC intends to attempt to recover premium costs for those who have been defrauded and are in process of seeing that a Cease and Desist order is served.

## How to Write an Article for ARNP Care

by Susan Caverly

ARNP Care is the official newsletter for ARNPs United of Washington State (AUWS). It is mailed to all ARNPs in Washington on a rotating basis if that ARNP is not a member of AUWS. For this newsletter to truly represent the full spectrum of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners it is essential that we all take a part in providing content! In our community of ARNPs we have a wide range of interests and expertise and as a community of professionals we can act as our own best sources of information. Sometimes it is the brief snippet of an editorial or the opinion statement of those in the minority that can shift and redirect practice and policy. Just take a moment to consider what your contribution to our public voice might be and then let us know!

If you have been spurred to act and participate here is what you can do to see your name in print.

Write a short article about the topic you find compelling and important to your colleagues. Put it in a word processing format and embed it in an email or send it as an attachment to care@nurse.net. Files can be sent as .txt, .doc (MS Word), .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) or in the body of your email.

You can also send articles by snail mail to ARNP Care, 10024 SE 240<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 102, Kent, WA 98031

Questions can be sent to the above email address or you can call 253.852.9042.

It is that easy to participate in the discourse related to Advanced Nursing Practice in Washington State! Please take this invitation personally and become involved.

## Labor and Industries Update

by Marty Couret

July 1<sup>st</sup> is fast approaching. Are you ready for the change in the Labor and Industries regulations? The passing of HB 1691 this legislative session authorizes ARNPs to be attending providers for L&I. This removes the requirement for physician co-signatures on the accident report and time loss forms. Unfortunately, the L&I system takes time.

Part of the authorizing legislation requires that a study be done to determine the effectiveness of ARNPs providing care to L&I patients. The major outcome measure of this study will be time loss.

To help Washington ARNPs polish their L&I skills, ARNPs United of Washington State has added an L&I

section to our web site. Go to [www.nurse.org/wa/au](http://www.nurse.org/wa/au) and click on the L&I section. Look for more to come.

**Kathy Camacho Carr, CNM  
Elected ACNM President**

By Heather Bradford

The CNMs of the state are quite proud of one of their own home grown CNMs, Kathy Camacho Carr, CNM, PhD, FACNM, who has been elected to be the next President of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). Kathy has been part of clinical midwifery practice for over 29 years as a staff or administrative nurse-midwife in a variety of settings. She has taught midwifery at various schools over the years, including the Institute of Midwifery, Women & Health. She is currently an associate professor and nurse-midwife at Seattle University College of Nursing, and Highline Midwifery and Women's Health. Kathy will take office as president at the ACNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans at the end of May.

**Webbin' with AENP**

by Heather Bradford

The Association of Eastside Nurse Practitioners is joining the 21st century! The non-profit organization which supports nurse practitioners on the Eastside of Seattle has launched a new web site: [www.eastsidenp.org](http://www.eastsidenp.org).

The site not only provides information about upcoming CE events, but also includes links to legislative information and other nursing organizations.

**NAPNAP Book**

NAPNAP has published its first Children's Book *It's MY Future Should I Be a Nurse Practitioner?* by Elaine Wick. To order one of the first copies available, just \$12.95 each (only \$10 each for NAPNAP Members and bulk pricing is available for all!) visit their web site: [www.napnap.org](http://www.napnap.org) to order or contact the national office at [mirvin@napnap.org](mailto:mirvin@napnap.org).

**Disaster Preparedness  
in the Clinic and the Community**

By Josh Webb

Wherever your clinic is located in Washington, you are in an area that may be affected by a disaster or other mass casualty event. This may come as flooding, earthquake, fire, or a volcanic eruption. In this "post 911" age, it is also more likely to come in the form of an intentional act such as bioterrorism than ever before. How prepared is your clinic for this disaster and how can you help?

Nurse practitioners are vital to the communities in which they serve. How can we be available if there is no

electricity, water, or telephones? It is important to make sure that our services will be accessible when they are really needed. The most effective way to ensure this is by developing a clinic disaster plan and becoming active in your local disaster preparedness community.

A good disaster plan involves multiple steps. The first is identifying the risks. What types of disasters are common in our area? How architecturally stable is the building? Is there a sprinkler system? The second step is to decrease those risks. Regular building inspection, securing shelves and bookcases, and mapping emergency routes can all help to minimize any damage that may occur. Roles for clinicians and staff should be identified. Will everyone plan to come to the clinic to help, or will the clinic plan on closing its doors? Having a written plan that is regularly reviewed and practiced can help to decrease the risks of personal injury and the clinic becoming incapacitated. More information is available in developing disaster plans at your local Red Cross chapter and the Department of Emergency Management, FEMA, and the CDC.

A larger question that should be asked is "how can our clinic fit into the area's emergency response?" There is a remarkable lack of utilization on the local, state, and federal levels of private clinics in the area. As the nation becomes more "disaster aware" this is changing. In Snohomish County individuals are in the beginning stages of starting a chapter of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), which is a group of volunteers organized on a local level to help in an emergency. Steven's Hospital in Edmonds, has been testing and is beginning to implement the IRIS system, which is a portable provider database/patient tracking system that can be taken to disaster sites to admit providers who want to help. There are also groups of providers who are getting together to develop multi-clinic disaster plans often with groups like the MRC.

As a whole, ARNPs need to get involved in their local disaster response groups, be it MRC or DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team). We need to work with our local County Departments of Emergency Management and local hospitals to work on ways to make our services available during a disaster. Remember that in most areas, there are no organized groups that work to let private clinics assist state and federal resources. It is up to us to develop these programs.

There is a very good likelihood that at some point in our careers we will be called upon to assist in a disaster or some other mass casualty event. We need to remember the ways we can keep our facilities and ourselves safe in order to provide help and we need to develop more ways to deliver that help.

## Classified Ads

### Nurse Practitioner

Compass Health of Whidbey Island, is seeking an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner in psychiatric nursing with prescriptive authority to join our Adult Outpatient Services. This position delivers direct psychiatric services to a wide range of acute and chronically mentally ill clients using a holistic, biopsychosocial orientation. We are seeking to compliment our team with an energetic, creative person with excellent clinical, consultative and relational skills. Ability in organizing and prioritizing to fulfill direct service requirements as well as program development expertise is a must. This position is part of team of case managers; therapists, psychiatric nurses and psychiatrists who provide broadly based comprehensive and compassionate client care. Compass Health is an active, growing community agency providing full inpatient and outpatient mental health care to Skagit, Snohomish, Island and San Juan counties. Whidbey's natural splendor includes breathtaking Puget Sound waterfront and mountain views of the surrounding Cascades and Olympic mountain ranges. Recreational opportunities are abundant including boating, hiking, beach combing, biking and camping. A thriving arts community enhances living on Whidbey Island. This position includes competitive wage and benefits. For application questions, contact Maggie Lacey, Human Resources 360.419.3526. For clinical questions contact Robin Farrand, Director at 360.678.5555 or 800.640.3481. Send resume and cover letter to: Maggie Lacey, Human Resources Department Compass Health - North 1100 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Mt. Vernon, WA 98273 E.O.E.

### SW Washington State

45 minutes from Portland, Oregon. This full-time position is ideal for an experienced, certified nurse practitioner who has the interest and heart for the care of nursing home patients. You will work in consultation with primary care physicians providing routine checks and urgent care to patients in five nursing homes, all within close proximity. In addition, spend one day each week providing urgent care in a busy, collegial primary care clinic. You will play an important role as a member of PeaceHealth Medical Group, a mission driven multi-specialty group that values your participation and teamwork. We're in a great location on the Columbia River in family-friendly, Longview-Kelso, Washington. Mountains, beaches and downtown Portland, Oregon all within one hour drive. This is simply a superb place to live, work and play. Contact: Anne Bennett, Physician Recruiter, PeaceHealth, Phone: 360.414.7596 Fax: 360.636.7243 or [Abe-nnett@PeaceHealth.org](mailto:Abe-nnett@PeaceHealth.org) or visit our website and complete an on-line application at [www.PeaceHealth.org](http://www.PeaceHealth.org) AA/EOE Dedicated to Exceptional Medicine and Compassionate Care

### Clinic For Sale

Excellent Opportunity for mid-level provider. Current Provider would like to retire. Call 253.922.5262, Jack Lake

### ARNP Independent Practice Opportunity

Looking to start your own practice? Established solo Women's Health Practice offering independent practice opportunity. OB/Gyn, Family care, or Primary care ARNP would be ideal. If you've ever go it alone, here's your chance! Call Michele Ingram at Birchwood Women's Health to see if this is the opportunity for you. Serious inquiries only call 360-671-7442 or e-mail [cmingram@hinet.org](mailto:cmingram@hinet.org)

## CE Opportunities

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardiology at Whistler

June 24-26, 2004, Delta Whistler Village Suites, \$149.00 per night (Canadian)

Topics Include: Preventing CHD in Women/Averting Disease/Your Role in Eliminating CAD/Antiplatelet Therapy/ Hormone Replace-

ment Therapy: A Cardiologist's Perspective and MUCH MORE 12 Hours CAT 1/14.4 Nursing Hours \$325 Physician/\$275 Nursing For full color brochure email [Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org](mailto:Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org) or call 425-261-3690

### Dermatology Update Conference

Friday, September 17, 2004, Hyatt Regency Bellevue 7.2 Nursing CEUs . For further information contact Jeri Sackett at 425-261-3690 or [Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org](mailto:Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org)

### Pacific Northwest 27th Annual Conference for Primary Care Practitioners

**September 15-18, 2004.** This conference offers practitioners an opportunity to validate and enhance clinical competencies, acquire new assessment and management skills, examine critical issues in health care at the state and national level, foster a strong coalition of providers in advanced practice, and learn about new products, services, and pharmacotherapeutic agents.

**Sponsors:** University of Washington School of Nursing, Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington School of Medicine, Continuing Medical Education, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, Western Washington Area Health Education Center

**Endorsed by:** ARNPs United of Washington State and the Washington State Nurses Association

**Location:** Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA

For a brochure or more information contact: CNE, T303 Health Science Building, 206-543-1047, Fax 206-543-6953, Email: [cne@u.washington.edu](mailto:cne@u.washington.edu), Website: [www.wcne.org](http://www.wcne.org)

### NPGS Announces CE Events

The Nurse Practitioner Group of Spokane has just released their Continuing Education Schedule. Meetings are scheduled each month. A list of all events can found on their web site, [www.npgs.org](http://www.npgs.org)

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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: www.nurse.org/wa/au/

**Nursing Home Chit Chat**

At a nursing home in Florida, a group of senior citizens were sitting around talking about their aches and pains.

"My arms are so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one.

"I know what you mean. My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee," replied another.

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a third, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me dizzy," another contributed.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head.

Then there was a short moment of silence.

"Well, it's not that bad," said one woman cheerfully. "Thank God we can all still drive."

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 253.852.9042 Fax: 253.852.7725  
 Email: care@nurse.net Web site: www.nurse.org/wa/arnpcare

**Editors:**

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

**Associate Editor:**

Marty Couret, MSN, ARNP

**Contributing Editor:**

Susan Caverly, PhD, ARNP

**Managing Editor:**

Carol Calandra

**Production Staff:**

S. Abid, M. Goodchild & A. Smithing

**Publisher:**

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