

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

February 2006

## ARNPs Address the Medical Malpractice Crisis at the Capitol

by Heather Bradford

On Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, over 50 ARNPs from all over WA State participated in WSNA's annual Nurse Legislative Day in Olympia. Many heard Governor Gregoire speak about her policy initiatives related to improving health care for WA citizens, and then attended Marty Couret and Heather Bradford's breakout session on NP legislative issues for this year. They attended the Capitol Luncheon event where 3 legislators were given Legislator of the Year Awards, including Rep. Dawn Morrell, RN, Rep. Rosa Franklin, RN, and Rep. Phyllis Kenney. In the afternoon, they met with their legislators, and concluded the day with a Legislative Reception hosted by ARNPs United, WSNA, the Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses, and the Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

During the breakout session, Marty and Heather reviewed ARNPs United's 2006 Legislative Agenda, which is focused on passing compromise legislation to address the medical malpractice crisis. ARNPs United of WA is encouraging support of SHB 2292, which is a multi-faceted bill addressing health care liability reform via 3 components: patient safety, tort reform, and insurance industry reform. This bill was created from the two initiatives which were on the ballot this past November. It has passed the House and is now with the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee.

ARNPs United, WSNA, and the other members of the Nurse Practitioner Coalition support this bill with 2 amendments. First, we would like to remove the three strikes provision, which would revoke a health care professional's license after three offenses within a 10-year period. The voters turned Initiative 336 down in November because this provision was included, and there are several other House Bills, which address this issue without such a punitive approach. HB 1071 would convene a Department of Health workgroup to examine the complaint process and disciplinary phase of the Uniform Disciplinary Act. HB 2431 would create fingerprint background checks and periodic review of federal provider data banks. Finally, HB 2974 would require the reporting unprofessional conduct and notification of sanctions in other states as well as felony pleas and convictions.

The other amendment proposed is related to the burden of proof for license suspension or revocation. Current standard calls for a preponderance of evidence while the recent court ruling concerning a physician's license called for clear, cogent and convincing evidence. HB 2292 sets a new standard of proof of substantial and significant evidence (which is between the two above) but only for physicians and physician's assistants. We recommend that the bill acknowledge the standard that the court has set for clear, cogent, and convincing evidence and include all providers, not just physicians and PAs, within that standard.

To learn more about SHB 2292, go to <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2292&year=2006>!

## National Provider Identifier

L&I is making system changes to accept either a National Provider Identifier (NPI) or an L&I Provider Account Number. Under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), an NPI will become the primary health care provider identifier for standard electronic transactions effective May 23, 2007. The NPI is being issued to providers who meet the CMS' definition of "healthcare provider" and who complete the mandatory application process. To check if you are required to obtain a National Provider Identifier, obtain more information on the NPI, or apply for your NPI go to the CMS website:

[http://new.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/01\\_overview.asp](http://new.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/01_overview.asp) . For now, continue to use your L&I account number. We will publish periodic updates on LNI-Medical-Provider-News listserv. For additional information, visit L&I's NPI Website at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Billing/BillLNI/NPI/default.asp> If you have questions about L&I's NPI implementation plans that are not covered on L&I's NPI Website, or Contact Joanne McDaniel, NPI Communications Lead, at 360.902.6817 or [mdan235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:mdan235@lni.wa.gov).

## The Symmetry Principle Vitamins, Minerals, and Prescriptions

By Glen Gordon

Codex alimentarius is a threat to all of us. Dogs, like man, thrive on vitamins and minerals and this is a story of their benefit to both.

Walt and Betty Moore started raising elkhounds around 1970, convinced that every dog they whelped must have vitamins, minerals, and daily exercise. Eventually their kennel became famous and sales gradually rose to over 300 prized elkhounds.

Betty loved every one of those pups, scrupulously screened every buyer, and exacted a blood oath that they would return her annual questionnaire. Over the 25-year period they bred, showed, and sold dogs, some very interesting epidemiologic evidence evolved.

Both were committed that all dogs at WABET kennels were going to either work or exercise vigorously each day and Walt had several ingenious methods to accomplish that. Each weekend their dogs pulled a sled along logging roads in the outdoors he and Betty loved so much, a regular family outing.

At the closure of WABET kennels Betty had data indicating the dogs sold to others lived an average 10-11 yrs, not bad for elkhounds. WABET's dogs lived 13-16 years, and the difference in hip and back problems was staggering. I met the Moore family in 1994 just as their venture was winding down, but the elkhounds remaining were a majestic lot, and not a one less than 13 years old.

You might have wondered about Walt and Betty. They were just as dedicated to daily work following their vitamins and minerals each morning. Walt cut and split about six cords of wood each year and Betty stacked every piece of it. Wasn't

that he made her do it, she was never happier than when she was toting wood and stacking it. They were on the go from morning till night around their ten acres above Discovery Bay.

Betty got a little tipsy a few months before she left us for good when a stroke ended her lovely life; she was 86. Walt is still going at 90, but cutting wood isn't much fun anymore. What was so wrong about taking vitamins and minerals each morning that some bureaucrat thinks people like Walt and Betty need a prescription? Walt and Betty didn't go to doctors much; at 90, he had yet to take his first prescription.

### Continuing Education

#### Complimentary Continuing Education

FNP Associates is pleased to announce complimentary continuing education programs for NPs available on the web. The programs are:

**Pain: Current Assessment, Management, and Treatment** – This program is approved for 6.0 contact hours in pharmacology, [www.npcentral.net/ce/pain](http://www.npcentral.net/ce/pain)

**Treating the Common Cold: An Expert Panel Consensus Recommendation for Primary Care Clinicians** – It is approved for 1.8 contact hours in pharmacology. This is an evidence-based set of recommendations for managing cold symptoms, [www.npcentral.net/ce/cold](http://www.npcentral.net/ce/cold)

**Frequent Heartburn: An Evidence-Based Approach to Cost-Effective Management** – Developed in collaboration with the American Academy of Physician Assistants, this program is accredited for 1.0 contact hours.

<http://www.npcentral.net/ce/heartburn>

Register, read the article, take the post-test, fill out the evaluation, and print out your CE certificate! Do these at your own pace. It's easy!

### Classified Ads

#### ARNP or PA - Bellevue

Vascular and general surgery practice in Bellevue, WA looking for experienced ARNP or PA with clinical experience (OR exp. desirable but not required). Full time with benefits: medical insurance, 401K, three weeks/year paid vacation, paid parking. Join this premier practice of 3 fellowship-trained vascular surgeons and 2 ARNPs. Confidentiality preserved. Fax resume and references to 425.453.0603.

#### Internal Medicine - Aberdeen, WA

Internal Medicine practice with 2 physicians in Aberdeen, WA, has an immediate opening for a full-time ARNP. Prefer two year's prior clinical experience in adult medicine, but will consider new grad. Current WA state and DEA licensure required. Send cover letter and CV to: Michelle Pelt, Clinic Administrator, Coastal Internal Medicine, PO Box 87, Aberdeen, WA, 98520 or call 360.538.0135.

#### Fourteen Openings for ARNPs with NCQAC

The Governor's Office is recruiting applicants to fill vacancies on the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission. A vacancy for an ARNP is set to open on June 30, 2006. The NCQAC meets six times a year and operates under legislative mandate to protect the health and safety of the public by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers under their jurisdiction. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Terry West at 360.236.4712."

#### Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant - Certified

Full-time opening for a nurse practitioner or physician assistant to work at multiple urgent care centers with a primary home base 70% of the time in Covington, 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 a PA or NP. Competitive salary, flexible shift work and comprehensive benefit package. Please email your CV to [providerservices@multicare.org](mailto:providerservices@multicare.org) or fax your CV to 866.264.2818. Please refer to opportunity #393. Website: [www.multicare.org](http://www.multicare.org), MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace

#### Bellingham Psychiatric Replacing Retiring ARNP

Established psychiatrist/ARNP practice position available June 2006 in beautiful Bellingham. Easy access to mountains, water, Seattle, Vancouver. Excellent group/individual learning/consultation opportunities, teamwork emphasized in highly regarded, busy practice with excellent relationships with community MDs and therapists. Practitioners offer medications and psychotherapy, emphasizing care of whole patient. Flexible salary arrangements with excellent benefits. Reply to Dr. Henry Levine at 360.671.0383.

#### Pediatric Emergency Department ARNP

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle is seeking 2 Nurse Practitioners – either new ARNPs with strong clinical pediatric RN backgrounds or very experienced PNPs – to establish a new ARNP role in the Emergency Department. Provide direct clinical care, case management, patient/family/staff education, consultation and leadership. Requires MSN, Washington State RN and ARNP license with prescriptive authority, CPR certification and strong pediatric clinical nursing experience. Emergency experience preferred. Part Time - 70%, Evening shift. Apply online at [www.seattlechildrens.org/jobs](http://www.seattlechildrens.org/jobs). Contact Children's Nurse Recruiter 800.874.6691 or 206.987.2112 with questions.

#### Adult Psychiatric ARNP - Burien, WA

Seeking adult psychiatric ARNP with an interest in geriatrics to join a collaborative practice. This opportunity includes both an inpatient and outpatient practice. Competitive salary and benefits. Located just 20 minutes from downtown Seattle. Please email CV to [gnumma@HighlineMedical.org](mailto:gnumma@HighlineMedical.org) or fax to 206.242.4625.

#### Tacoma, WA - Pediatric Cardio Thoracic Surgery

MultiCare Health System, Swedish Medical Center and Mary Bridge Children's Hospital are seeking an ARNP (with surgical training/experience) or PA-C with pediatric cardio thoracic surgery experience/training to join a well-established program. Adult cardiac experience will be considered. Qualified applicants must be certified, flexible, self-motivated, and committed to program development and patient care. As a MultiCare employee, you will enjoy excellent compensation, benefits and system-wide support. Email your CV to [providerservices@multicare.org](mailto:providerservices@multicare.org) or fax your CV to 866.264.2818. Website: [www.multicare.org](http://www.multicare.org).

#### ARNP or ARNP/CNM

Rapidly growing practice in upper middle-class Seattle suburb seeking experienced ARNP or CNM to provide excellence in woman's health care. Part-time clinical position, Competitive salary and excellent benefits package, Affiliated with Stevens Healthcare, Warm office environment and supportive staff and community. For additional information, please contact Dave Domholt at 425.640.4608 or forward your CV to [ddomholt@stevenshealthcare.org](mailto:ddomholt@stevenshealthcare.org).

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# ARNPs United of Washington State

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*Join Us Today!*

## Successes

- Removal of the requirement for a "Joint Practice Agreement" to prescribe scheduled medications
- Scheduled medication prescriptive authority
- Authority for ARNPs to sign: death certificates, written documentation for Guardian-ad-Litem, handicapped parking applications as well as time loss and accident report forms for L&I.
- Removal of barriers for ARNPs to care for patients covered by L&I Insurance.

## What ARNPs United does for You Now

- Our lobbyist monitors all legislation for changes that may affect ARNPs
- Improved communication with individual members and ARNP organizations
- Coordinating activities and efforts among ARNPs across specialty groups
- Sponsors an electronic discussion group for members
- Acts as a liaison for ARNPs to the Washington State Nurses Association, other disciplines and community groups.

## Direct Membership Benefits (worth over \$101)

- Free subscriptions to *NP World News* and the *American Journal for Nurse Practitioners*
  - Up to date and informative monthly newsletter *ARNP Care*
  - Discount of 25% on individual subscriptions to the *Nurse Practitioner Journal*
  - Discount of 30% on *Lexi-Comp* books and software products for your handheld computer
  - Discount of 20% on briefcases and luggage by Tutto
  - Web site with current information at [www.nurse.org/wa/au](http://www.nurse.org/wa/au)
  - Tax deductible membership
- 

## *I Want to Join ARNPs United of Washington State Today*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ARNP Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  Send  Do not send ARNP Care to me by email

### Please check all that apply:

Feb-06 Care

- Life time Membership \$1000     Individual Membership \$150 per year  
 Affiliate Membership \$100 per year     Student Membership \$50 per year  
(Reduced fee for an active member of another Washington ARNP professional organization)  
 Donation for ARNPs United     I'm not sure contact me with more information

Make checks payable to **ARNPs UNITED of Washington State** or pay using your credit card  
and mail with this form to 10024 SE 240<sup>th</sup> St, #102, Kent, WA 98031

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Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  MasterCard  Visa Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address for credit card:  Same as above address \_\_\_\_\_

*At this time only a MasterCard or a Visa Card can be used to pay for your membership.*

**MultiCare – Tacoma, WA Clinical Nurse Specialists**

Full-time opportunities for CNS positions are currently available. The CNS is responsible for providing consultation, education, research and administration for the management of patients and staff in his/her area of clinical practice. We are currently accepting applications for the Emergency Department, the Neonatal ICU and Orthopedics. Requirements for this position include a current Washington State RN license, MSN and five years of relevant clinical experience. Visit us and apply online at [www.multicarejobs.org](http://www.multicarejobs.org) or contact Sandi Squires at [sandi.squires@multicare.org](mailto:sandi.squires@multicare.org), 253.403.1176 and Pat Terenzi at [pat.terenzi@mutlicare.org](mailto:pat.terenzi@mutlicare.org), 253.403.4862. EOE

**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, or 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 \$550 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).

**Healthy Humor**

Five-year-old Becky answered the door when the census taker came

by. She told the census taker that her mommy was a surgeon and wasn't home because she was performing an appendectomy. "My," said the census taker, "that sure is a big word for such a little girl. Do you know what it means?" "Sure do! Fifteen-hundred bucks, and that doesn't include the anesthesiologist!"

**ARNPs United of WA State**

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