

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

July 2007

Upcoming Elections for Board of Directors

By Therese Vafaezadeh

Elections for ARNP's United of WA State Board of Directors will be held this November. We are looking for a few motivated people who are interesting in promoting the ARNP role in Washington State. Positions are for three years. Meetings are held every one to three months; you do not need to live in the Puget Sound area, as we have many members participate via conference call. In fact, we are especially interested in Board participation from outside the Puget Sound area. The board consists of a maximum of 9 members plus 4 officers (President, President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer). If you are interested in running or want to know more about the role of the Board please contact Therese Vafaezadeh, ARNP at tvafae@hotmail.com or Heather Bradford, CNM, ARNP at hbradford@comcast.net.

Passage of Labor and Industries Bill!

By Heather Bradford

On May 2nd, Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law HB 1666, which allows ARNPs to continue to sign L and I accident report forms and certify time loss for injured workers. A similar bill passed in 2004, which first authorized ARNPs to perform these L and I functions without a physician signature. However, the 2004 bill was scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2007. Passage of HB 1666 ensures that ARNPs can now do so on a permanent basis. Our Board of Directors and Legislative Committee thank all those ARNPs who made phone calls, sent emails, and attended Nurse Legislative Day regarding this legislation. We also thank Jeanne Sears, RN, MS, PhD candidate from the University of Washington School of Public Health for her many hours of dissertation research on this topic. Her evidence concluded that implementation of the 2004 bill was not associated with any negative impact on costs, claim disputes, or time loss duration, and appeared to positively affect provider enrollment, availability of authorized attending providers in rural areas, and administrative efficiency¹.

¹Department of Labor and Industries (2006). Advanced registered nurse practitioners as attending providers in the Washington State Workers' Compensation System (SHB 1691). Olympia, WA: Department of Labor and Industries.

Dispensing Medications and Our Prescriptive Authority

By Deborah Smith and Ann Darlington

In a conflict which spanned the last two legislative sessions, a cadre of pharmacists argued that they had the right to refuse to fill prescriptions with which they morally disagreed (Seattle Times, 4/16/07). Tim Fuller,

Pharmacist Consultant for the Board of Pharmacy (BOP) responded to questions about this story by explaining that the controversy began when the WA State Pharmaceutical Association presented to the BOP their statement on the pharmacist's right to refuse to fill prescriptions. They claimed that pharmacists should be able to refuse to fill a prescription based upon moral, ethical, or religious reasons. The BOP was additionally challenged because the then current rules and regulations did not provide a basis for disciplinary action, if the pharmacist acted unprofessionally in denying service to a patient.

In researching this article, a close friend who is a pharmacist shared his perspective, saying that the debate can be tracked to euthanasia laws in Oregon, and the quandary some pharmacists felt about providing medications that they knew would be used for suicide. In Washington, the debate was sparked by Plan B, the brand name of an emergency contraception (EC) formulation of levonorgestrel. Lisa Stone of the Northwest Women's Law Center said (personal communication) that pharmacists seemed to be unaware of its pharmacologic action, arguing that Plan B use was tantamount to abortion. In fact, the presumed action of EC is to prevent ovulation or fertilization (by altering tubal transport of sperm and/or ova) and to inhibit implantation (by altering the endometrium). EC is not effective once the process of implantation has begun. Stone noted that at a training session in Oregon, 50% of pharmacists initially believed that emergency contraception was the same as RU-486, an abortifacient.

In editorials across the state, the public provided evidence that pharmacists fill a critical public role, and that what this small cadre of pharmacists thought about emergency contraception was not important and should not supplant the rights of the individual consumer. The WA State Human Rights Commission argued that "allowing pharmacists to discriminate, based on their personal religious beliefs, against women and others trying to fill lawful prescriptions would be discriminatory, unlawful, and against good public policy and the public interest". Governor Gregoire weighed in, urging the BOP to rule that pharmacists must fill lawfully written prescriptions and maintain patient access to needed medications. In June of '06 she wrote to the BOP, "Let me be clear: a lawful prescription should be filled unless there are clinical or safety issues...I expect the Board to develop rules that provide clear guidance and protection to the public" (see <http://www.hum.wa.gov/Women's%20Issues/Index.html>)

The BOP followed through by their rule-writing of Washington Administrative Codes 246-869-010 (on

“pharmacies’ responsibilities”) and 246-863-095 (on “pharmacist’s professional responsibilities”), which amended and expanded the existing WACs. The new rules now state, “Pharmacies have a duty to deliver lawfully prescribed drugs or devices to patients...” and “A pharmacist’s primary responsibility is to ensure patients receive safe and appropriate medication therapy.” Further, “engaging in or permitting any of the following shall constitute grounds for discipline or other enforcement actions:

- a. Destroy unfilled lawful prescription.
- b. Refuse to return unfilled lawful prescriptions
- c. Violate a patient’s privacy.
- d. Discriminate against patients or their agent in a manner prohibited by state or federal laws.
- e. Intimidate or harass a patient.”

Specifically pharmacists with personal objections to a drug may request that a co-worker fill the order. If that proves to be impossible, pharmacists with objections are obligated to fill the prescription themselves. When it comes to lawful prescriptions, patients cannot be turned away or sent to another pharmacy.

Tim Fuller of the BOP outlined the Dept. of Health’s approach to discipline, saying that the pharmacy rules are made to insure access, and the pharmacists’ rules are to insure proper conduct. Complaints about either are sent to the Dept of Health and are investigated by the BOP. From there, any of the following may occur: the case may be closed; a notice of correction may be issued; a statement of allegations may be issued and stipulation to informal disposition offered, or a request to the Attorney’s General office with a statement of charges may be sent.

We at ARNPs United want to hear from you if you have encountered any problems with your patients’ ability to fill prescriptions. The system may be fixed, but if you think otherwise, please contact us at au@nurse.net.

NP Referral Service

By Courtney Kiele

Do you ever feel like you could use some help in your practice? Need to refer a patient but can’t find another practitioner in your area? Maybe you fell out of touch with an old colleague or classmate. ARNPs United of Washington State would like to remind you of a very helpful service we offer to remedy these very situations.

ARNPs United would like to share with you our Washington Nurse Practitioner Directory. You can search for a nurse practitioner by name, specialty, certification, or city! If you would like to be included in the Directory you may add your information as well. Visit our site at www.auws.org and click on services in the menu bar on the left hand side of the page. Listed under Directory

Services is the National Nurse Practitioner Directory and the Washington State Nurse Practitioner Directory. There is also a link which allows you to enter your information to be included in the Directory.

The Directory is there for your convenience. We strongly urge you to take full advantage of this service.

CE Opportunities

Pacific NW 30th Annual Conference for Advanced Practice in Primary and Acute Care

November 7-10, 2007 • 6.0-20.5 contact hours • Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, WA

Enhance your clinical competencies • Acquire new assessment and management skills • Examine critical issues at the state and national level and their impact on primary care practice • Foster a strong coalition of primary care providers • Learn about new products, services, and pharmacotherapeutic agents at this highly-acclaimed conference.

For information call CNE, 206.543.1047 or email: cne@u.washington.edu or uwcne.org

DoubleFeature: Men & Women's Healthcare Conference

October 25-26, 2007 • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle

Brochure available at

www.providence.org/everett/medical_staff/default.htm

Nurse Foot Care Training

The 10th Annual Nurse Foot Care Training Program • Saturday, Nov. 10th 2007 • Cherry Hill (Old Providence) Campus of Swedish Hospital Seattle.

Topics will include routine nail & skin care, diabetic foot conditions & care, common foot problems & treatment, vascular problems, instruments/sterilization.

See wspma.org for registration form, FAQs, and course outline. You will be emailed a confirmation. It will include directions & a final lecture schedule. Instruction manual, breakfast & lunch included!

Update in Practical Pediatrics

September 20-21, 2007 • Full day Thursday, Half day Friday • Woodmark Hotel, Kirkland

Special room rates available at Woodmark Hotel. \$155 both days - individual day rates available. Brochure available at www.providence.org/everett/medical_staff/default.htm

For further information contact: Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org

Classified Ads

Seeking Certified Nurse Practitioner

Nurse Practitioners at Evercare give wholeheartedly to their patients. And in return, they experience a career filled with rich personal rewards and true satisfaction. Evercare’s success is driven by our Nurse Practitioners who share an ultimate goal of caring for the needs of the whole person. We invite you to join them in their mission. We invite you to make a difference.

We are experiencing exciting growth in Seattle and are actively seeking nationally certified **NURSE PRACTITIONERS** to provide direct care services to our members residing in long-term care settings.

Manage your own caseload while collaborating with physicians and facility staff to maintain the health and well being of our enrollees. This role requires clinical experience in home care, long-term care or geriatrics. Recent NP graduates with experience as an RN will also be considered. DEA licensure is a plus.

Explore www.theheartofcaring.com - a resource designed with you in mind. Learn more about Evercare’s culture of caring, and apply online

if you choose. If you prefer, contact Mina Koukklan toll-free at 877.835.3156, ext. 2596, mkoukklan@uhc.recruitservices.com or fax your information to 877.464.3239. Evercare offers a full range of comprehensive benefits.

Diversity creates a healthier atmosphere: equal opportunity employer M/F/D/V.

Puyallup, WA – Psychiatry ARNP

The growing community of Puyallup, Washington is seeking a psychiatric ARNP to provide psychiatric evaluations and psychiatric medication management to individuals receiving counseling services at Good Samaritan Behavioral Healthcare. Experience and expertise working with children and adolescents is essential although there is the opportunity to work with clients of all ages. Located 40 minutes south of Seattle and 30 minutes from an international airport, Puyallup and the surrounding communities provide a broad range of educational and cultural activities for all ages. Nestled between the Cascade Mountains and the shores of Puget Sound, the region's year round temperate climate affords outdoor enthusiasts endless recreational opportunities. Qualified applicants must be flexible, self-motivated, and committed to program development and patient care. If you would like more information concerning this opportunity, please call 800-621-0301 or email your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org or fax your CV to 866-264-2818. Refer to Opportunity #568-739

MultiCare is a Drug Free Workplace

Family ARNP

Family ARNP is needed at Tenino Family Practice for a full time position. New provider will take on patient population of departing ARNP. We are a friendly office that has been established for 22 years. We were designated a Rural Health Clinic in 1998, and have had a nurse practitioner since then. At that time we moved into a new building. Benefit package includes malpractice insurance and medical-dental-vision insurance. After three years employees are eligible for a SEP-IRA plan.

Our patient population is greatly varied and includes Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance. We emphasize a high standard of care for all of our patients from birth to death. To help give our patients the best care, the MD and ARNP meet weekly to discuss difficult issues amongst patients and standards of care. TFP also participates in a Diabetic Collaborative, which assists us in giving comprehensive care to our diabetic population. We use a recall system to help schedule routine appointments. Practice pace is adjusted to allow for thorough care.

Tenino Family Practice, PO Box 4020, Tenino, WA 98589

Phone: 360.264.5665 Fax: 360.264.5666

ARNP For Urology Practice

Multi-specialty group seeks an ARNP to join a thriving Urology practice. Experience or training in Urology is preferred. Candidates must be qualified for licensure & certification in Washington State as an ARNP. You will enjoy excellent compensation, benefits, and system-wide support, while practicing your own patient care values. Located 35 minutes south of Seattle and 30 minutes from an international airport, Tacoma and the surrounding communities provide a broad range of educational and cultural activities for all ages. Nestled between the Cascade Mountains and the shores of Puget Sound, the region's year round temperate climate affords outdoor enthusiasts endless recreational opportunities, such as biking, hiking, climbing, skiing, and golfing. For more information regarding this fantastic opportunity, contact Provider Services @ 800-621-0301 or send your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org.

Please reference opportunity #554-716.

"MultiCare Health System is proud to be a drug free workplace"

Neurosurgical ARNP wanted: Puyallup, WA

Busy neurosurgical/interventional pain practice with offices in Puyallup/Tacoma/Federal Way, WA, looking for experienced surgical ARNP

who wants to do it all. Duties include clinic, surgical first assist, hospital rounds, and some call coverage. Interest in research coordination a definite plus. Innovative and supportive surgical practice environment with on-site MRI, interventional pain service, and ambulatory surgery center.

Located 30 minutes south of Seattle, the area has excellent restaurants, a wide range of cultural events, and unparalleled outdoor activities with mountains, salt and freshwater access.

Excellent benefits for family medical/dental plans, 401(k), salary DOE. Interested parties send your CV, letter of interest and references to: Hiroshi Nakano, Chief Executive Officer, South Sound Neurosurgery, PLLC, 1519 3rd Street, Suite 101, Puyallup, WA 98372, by email at hnakano@southsoundneurosurgery.com or fax to 253.445.0756

Washington, Richland

Kadlec Clinic is a multi-specialty physician practice operated by Kadlec Health System. Kadlec Clinic is recruiting staff for the Senior Health Care Clinic. This individual will be under indirect supervision, provides independent geriatric primary care in a variety of clinical settings to a specified population of non-emergency patients. Consideration for this position requires a current Washington State RN and ARNP licensure. Must be credentialed per Kadlec Clinic policies and procedures. Benefits included; salary DOE.

Fax or mail application to:

Kadlec Clinic at APW

Attn: Human Resources

945 Goethals, Suite 200

Richland, WA 99352

Fax: 509-946-8963

Washington, Longview - FNP

Family Health Center is seeking 1 full time family nurse practitioner, for our main clinic in Longview, WA. Want to be close to metropolitan cities but don't actually want to live in one? Longview is 50 min. from Portland, OR, and about 3 hours close to Seattle, WA. Successful candidate will be board certified or board eligible advanced nurse practitioner in Family Practice with 1-2 yrs min. experience, possess a valid, unrestricted license or registration to prescribe drugs, medications, pharmaceuticals, and controlled substances and possess a commitment to serve the underserved. Bi-lingual Spanish a plus! Competitive compensation and 100% paid benefits package avail!, paid CME, paid licensure, paid malpractice insurance, relocation assistance avail, and loan repayment may be available to those who qualify! For more information about the position and us please see our website: www.cowlitzfamilyhealth.org. EEO.

Contact: Tamara Russell, HR Manager at: trussell@cfamhc.org, or 360-636-3892, or Fax: 360-414-1249.

NGOabroad

Nurse Practitioners, nurses & midwives are needed in Asia, Africa, Central & South America.

There is 1 doctor/10,000 people throughout most of Africa. Mothers carry their sick children to closed clinics.

NGOabroad matches your skills to international humanitarian need.

nGoAbroad is a unique clearinghouse, referral and career consultation service. For more information. see <http://www.ngoabroad.com/>

If interested, email info@nGoAbroad.com: 1) briefly state your skills, interests and goals; 2) please copy and paste your resume; 3) write your skill set in the subject line.

Healthy Humor

Surgeon vs. Mechanic

Morris was removing some engine valves from a car on the lift when he spotted the famous heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey, who was standing off to the side, waiting for the service manager. Morris,

somewhat of a loud mouth, shouted across the garage, "Hey De-Bakey... Is that you? Come over here a minute."

The famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to where Morris was working on a car. Morris, in a loud voice so all could hear, said argumentatively, "So Mr. fancy doctor, look at this work. I also take valves out, grind 'em, put in new parts, and when I finish this baby will purr like a kitten. So how come you get the big bucks, when you and me are basically doing the same work?"

DeBakey, very embarrassed, walked away and said softly to Morris, "Try doing your work with the engine running."

Ad Information

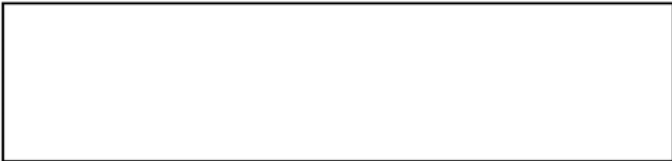
Copy deadline is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Ads may be accepted later than this on a space-available basis. Position Available Ads of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75, and greater than 130 words are \$105. Position Available Ads are priced per insertion. 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.

Inspirational Quote
Who is the happiest of men? He who values the merits of others and in their pleasure takes joy, even as though it were his own.
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
German polymath

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