

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

June, 1998

Legislative Update

by Larry Kerschner, ARNP and
Gail Toraason McGaffick, JD

We want to focus this article on two different areas of work that are undertaken by the Department of Health and the Legislature during the time period between legislative sessions, referred to as the interim. First, we will review for you the extraordinary amount of work being performed by the Department of Health in its sunrise reviews, and we'll follow that with a summary of key interim studies being conducted by the Legislature.

Department of Health. The Department of Health is undertaking a number of sunrise reviews that may be of interest to ARNPs. These reviews are mandated by the Legislature anytime legislation is introduced which either expands a health care professional's scope of practice or creates a mandated health benefit.

1. SB 6522 Maternity Services. This legislation amends the earlier adopted "drive-by delivery" statute. It goes further by saying that health carriers must provide coverage for maternity care. ARNPs and CNMs are specifically covered as "attending providers" when they have hospital privileges and when they're included in the provider network of the carrier providing coverage. We anticipate that ARNPs United will be working with the Women's Health Care Coalition to support this legislation. A preliminary review of the proposed legislation indicates some changes are needed to avoid the applicability of maternity coverage to only hospital births. The first public meeting to gather information and comments will be held in early June, and this review will be concluded in September.

2. HB 2594 Contraceptive Services. This legislation requires health carriers to provide coverage for contraceptive services...which is not specifically defined. We anticipate that ARNPs United will be coordinating our efforts with those of the Washington State Council on Family Planning, which is the lead entity advocating for this issue. The first public meeting to gather information and comments will be held in early June, and this review will be concluded in September.

3. SB 5471 Osteoporosis Treatment & Prevention. This legislation requires health carriers who provide hospital, medical or surgical coverage to include coverage for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis. "The services may include, but are not limited to, visits to health care professionals, reimbursement for scientifically proven bone mass measurement, which is bone density testing, and United State Food and Drug administration-approved medications." The

initial meeting on this legislation is scheduled for June, and this review will be concluded in July.

4. HB 2286 Naturopathic Scope. This legislation amends the scope of practice for naturopaths...who will now be known as naturopathic physicians. This follows the lead of the optometrists and podiatrists who are now also referred to as physicians. In addition, the legislation broadens their scope of practice. Currently, naturopaths are allowed to prescribe some legend drugs, and this would extend their scope to all legend drugs and Schedules IV and V, controlled substances. There are other changes which expand their scope to include defining "minor office procedures" to mean "limited surgical care", removal of limitations on intermuscular injections, and the addition of x-ray interpretation. The Washington State Medical Association has strong objections to this proposed legislation, and has contacted us asking for our opinion. The Legislative Committee will be reviewing this legislation in great detail at its June meeting, as well as the naturopaths' reasons for believing these changes are necessary, and will make a recommendation to the Board. This sunrise review is also commencing in June, and is expected to be concluded by October.

5. HB 2540 Dental Anesthesia. This legislation mandates that health carriers covers dental anesthesia for children. This is an important issue for CRNA's because they need to be specifically included as anesthesia providers. The Washington State Dental Association, who is the advocate for this legislation, has indicated their intent to include CRNA's, but of course, we will be monitoring this closely. The review of HB 2540 starts in July and will be concluded in October.

6. SB 6566 Mental Health Parity. This legislation, as revised, will mandate that health carriers cover mental health services at parity with physical health services. ARNPs United is working with a coalition of other interested parties. This review will start in July and conclude in November.

7. SB 6617 Eating Disorders. This legislation will require health carriers to provide coverage for eating disorders which are defined as anorexia and bulimia. This review is being performed concurrently with mental health parity.

8. SB 5675 Medical Rehabilitation Services. Tired of making no progress before the Legislature, the rehab associations are proposing legislation that would mandate coverage for their services in the Basic Health Plan. This review will begin in July and conclude in November.

9. **SB 5978 Medical Rehabilitation & Chiropractic Services.** Moving right along, this legislation mirrors SB 5675 and also adds chiropractic services.

10. **HB 2865 Optometrists.** This unique legislation would in essence allow the Board of Optometry to define as optometric practice anything which is taught in optometry schools that is approved by the Board. This review begins in May and will conclude in July.

The sunrise process includes the proponents preparing a report explaining and justifying why the legislation would benefit the public. This report is discussed with ample opportunity given for rebuttal by those groups that either outright oppose the legislation or have suggestions for modifications to the proposed legislation. The Department reviews all the information and writes a report with a recommendation that the Legislation be adopted, amended, or not adopted. We'll keep you posted on the results of these reviews.

Legislature's Interim Studies. Here's a brief summary of some of the interim studies that the Legislature will work on during the Summer and Fall of 1998.

→ **Dual diagnosis.** This study will explore the problems encountered by persons who have both mental illness and substance abuse problems in receiving appropriate treatment.

→ **Medical treatment of children in DSHS custody.** Continuing questions are being raised about the use of antipsychotic or psychotropic medications to treat children who have mental illness or behavioral problems.

→ **Managed care regulation.** Over the past several years, increasing numbers of bills have been introduced to deal with this complex issue, but few have passed. A wide variety of issues will be reviewed including the extent to which current managed care requirements address quality assurance.

→ **Telepractice and professional licensing.** New technologies have drawn attention to providing interactive

long distance health services to consumers. This is a minefield for legal issues related to professional licensing. For example, does a health care professional living in another state, giving advice to a Washington resident need to be credentialed in Washington.

→ **Drug affected infants.** Because legislation addressing this issue was essentially vetoed by Governor Locke in 1998, there will be continued meetings with interest groups to develop policy solutions that are acceptable to all parties.

→ **Certificate of need.** The budget directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to study the certificate of need program, to include hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, kidney dialysis centers, home health and hospice agencies.

→ **Long-term care.** SSB 6544 called for a comprehensive study of this state's long-term care system to be undertaken by a joint legislative and executive task force. Initial finds of the task force are due January 1, 1999, with final recommendations due by December 12, 1999. Key objectives of the study which will be:

- ◆ Review quality and safety standards for all types of long-term care facilities and services regulated or delivered by DSHS
- ◆ Evaluate the need for uniform assessments to determine long-term care needs for state-funded clients
- ◆ Evaluate alternatives for reorganizing and reforming current long-term care administration and service delivery
- ◆ More long-term care. SSB 6544 also directed DSHS, the Department of Health, the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, together with adult family home, boarding home, and in-home personal care providers to review caregiver training standards.
- ◆ Monitor joint legislative task force on nurse delegation.
- ◆ Monitor Department of Health study on self-directed care.
- ◆ Explore ways that access to hospice services can be increased.
- ◆ Monitor activities in other states regarding end of life care.
- ◆ Review need for legislation to prevent discrimination based on genetic information.
- ◆ Background checks. A comparative analysis of various background check statutes will be compiled to assist legislators in determining if additional legislation is necessary.
- ◆ Monitor issues relating to insurance fraud committee by health providers and study options for addressing them.
- ◆ Pain management. Monitor the development of pain management guidelines by the Department of Health, and conforming policies by the Department of Labor and Industries.

ARNP Care

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Book Review of Pulse

by Bob Smithing

Pulse, a new book by nurse author Echo Heron, starts off with a bang, two murders in the first 5 pages. The plot follows a convoluted course through the hospital corridors, and out into the San Francisco community. Adele Monsarrat, RN the nurse protagonist is savvy and assertive, ultimately solving the murders and mystery that surrounded the deaths. The story is complete with subtle humor, which will be appreciated by any nurse that has ever worked in a hospital. Some of the characters lead wilder lives than I recall from my hospital days, and stretch the believability of the reader. This does make for interesting reading when added to a high-stress workplace with drugs, sex and unusual spiritual practices. If you're looking for a murder mystery written by a nurse **Pulse** fills the prescription.

The author, Echo Heron, was a critical care nurse in the San Francisco Bay area for 17 years. She has written the bestselling book **Intensive Care: The Story of a Nurse, Condition Critical: The Story of a Nurse Continues** and **Mercy**.

Classified Ads**Family ARNP or Physician Assistant**

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Reproductive Health Care NP

Planned Parenthood of Central Washington in Walla Walla is accepting applications for a full time nurse practitioner to provide reproductive health care. Great benefits. For application, call 509.529.3570 or stop by 136 East Birch.

Acute Care/Family Nurse Practitioner

Emergency medicine group practice looking for family NPs or acute care NPs to practice in new urgent care or "fast track" portion of emergency department, opening this summer/fall. Excellent salary and benefits package. Practice located in Longview, Washington with all the benefits of the great Pacific Northwest surroundings. Prefer prior acute care experience. Send resume to Dennis Ford, MD, Medical Director, St John Medical Center, PO Box 3002, Longview, WA 98632. Alternatively, fax to 360-578-7931 or E-mail to: jdford@kalama.com.

Family Nurse Practitioner

The Lakewood Clinic is seeking a full-time family practice nurse practitioner to work in our Primary Care Clinic. You will perform complete histories and physicals, make assessments and formulate plans of care while consulting with physicians to meet standards of care. Resume to Human Resources, 11314 Bridgeport Way SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 or fax to 253.588.6536.

Rehab ARNP

Northwest Medical Rehabilitation in Spokane, WA is seeking an ARNP with rehab background, preferably an ARNP/CRRN. Part time or full time available. Please fax resume or letters of interest to 509.459.0881.

Nursing Services Administrator

Seattle, WA - Planned Parenthood of Western WA - one of the largest providers of reproductive health care in the state - is seeking an outstanding Nursing Services Administrator to lead the clinician care in our 17 clinic sites. Will provide teaching, coaching and consultation for professional clinic staff, assess staffing needs, hire and evaluate clinic

staff and develop and implement QA programs. Positions requires Master's degree in Nursing, current certification as OB/GYN Women's Health Care NP, Family NP or Adult NP and employment experience demonstrating increasing levels of clinical and managerial responsibility. Strong interpersonal skills essential. Mail CV/resume to PPWW/HR, 2211 E Madison, Seattle, WA 98112. EOE.

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Psychiatric NP wanted for immediate opening at Sammamish Valley Psychological Services, PS, an established staff model multidisciplinary behavioral health clinic, with offices in Redmond and Woodinville. Our clinical staff consists of: seven psychologists, two psychiatrists and one social worker. Must have broad base of clinical skills in assessment, medication and psychotherapy services for adults and adolescents. Three years of independent prescriptive experience and interest in working with managed care is required. Clinic works closely with many MCOs, PPOs, HMOs, EAPs and PCPs. We'll provide referrals, access to closed managed care panels, billing, office support, furnished office, voice mail/pager, etc. Contact Gregg Schimmel, PhD at 425.883.2623. Vitas and letters of interest can also be faxed to 425.883.6241 or mailed to: 17530 NE Union Hill Road, Suite 210, Redmond, WA 98052.

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Mental Health Contract ARNP

Northwest Counseling Institute has an immediate opening for a contract ARNP with prescriptive authority for adults and children specializing in mental health. The position is at the Auburn and Federal Way offices. A position will also be available in Tacoma by April 5th. The current need is 12 hours a week and will expand to 18 hours. Please contact the Director, Mark Bethune at 253.939.8525 and fax a resume to 253.931.8193.

Continuing Education**Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners**

June 17, 1998. Location: Seattle, WA. The next Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners meeting will be held Wednesday, June 17th at 6:00 pm (dinner at 7:00) at Umberto's Ristorante, 100 S King Street in downtown Seattle. The featured speaker is Bob Smithing, ARNP and Internet Wizard, speaking on "Internet Pearls for NPs." Please RSVP to Suzanne Green at 206.284.3802.

Pacific Northwest 21st Annual Conference for Primary Care Practitioners

September 17-19, 1998. Location: Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, Washington. Sponsors: University of Washington School of Nursing, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, ARNPs United, WWAHEC, Washington Academy of Physician Assistants. CE Hours: 7.2 to 23.2 contact hours (maximum of 12.0 contact hours in Pharmacology). Application has been made for Category I CEC for PAs. Contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle, WA 98195-7260, phone: 206.543.1047, www.son.washington.edu/~cne/.

Women's Health in the Perimenopause '98

November 20-22, 1998. Location: Los Angeles, CA. Announcing the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals' (ARHP) fourth biennial clinical conference, Women's Health in the Perimenopause '98...the meeting will be held November 20-22, 1998 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Los Angeles, CA. The method will be lecture style. Sessions focus on sexuality, hot flashes, incontinence, mood changes, dermatology, cosmetic surgery, weight and health in clinical care, alternative therapies, the biology of menopause and ovaries after menopause. Faculty includes Dr Kirtly Parker Jones, Ms Sharon Schnare, Dr

Donna Shoupe, Ms Barbara Kass-Anesse, Dr Anita Nelson and Dr Niall Galloway. ARHP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. The credit hours earned will be in Category One of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. All sessions are also approved by ACNM and CNM for accreditation. Contact Amy McCormick for more information at 202.466.3825.

Reproductive Health '98

December 3-5, 1998. Location: St Louis, MO. Announcing the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals' (ARHP) 35th annual meeting. Reproductive Health '98...the meeting will be held in conjunction with Planned Parenthood Federation of American and cosponsored by the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health on December 3-5, 1998 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St Louis, MO. The method will be lecture style. Sessions focus on contraception, dermatology, abortion, STDs and other issues related to reproductive health. Faculty includes Dr Marilynne McKay, Dr Dan Mishell, Ms Louise Bateman and Dr David Grimes. The Alan Guttmacher Lecture and Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 5. This year's Alan Guttmacher Lecturer will be Dr Elizabeth Connell from Emory University School of Medicine. ARHP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. The credit hours earned will be in Category One of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. All sessions are also approved by ACNM and CNM for accreditation. Contact Amy McCormick for more information at 202.466.3825.

CE Credit for Home Study in Natural Medicine

Bastyr University offers home study programs in Herbal Medicine and Phytotherapy, as well as Condition-Specific Monographs which include topics such as Migraine, Depression, and Osteoarthritis. Programs range in cost from \$15-\$30 each and grant 1.5 to 3.0 contact hours of continuing education credit. Bastyr University, located in the greater Seattle, Washington area has been approved as a provider of continuing education for nurses by Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA). WSNA is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Commission on Accreditation. Bastyr University is also approved as a provider by the California Board of Registered Nursing (provider no. 12220). Call 425.602.3152 for more information or to order, or see our web site at www.bastyr.edu, and go to Continuing Education.

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Cost:

\$95.00(Lunch is included in registration)

Option Two:

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August 4 - 8, 1998 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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