

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Washington State ARNP Salary Survey Results

by Bob Smithing

Information in this article was obtained from data collected in 1997 and 1998 on Washington State ARNPs. Specialties not reported did not have an adequate sample size for reporting. Additional information is available on the NP Central web site at <http://www.nurse.net/>.

Specialty	Mean Salary	Maximum Salary	Most Frequent Salary Range
ANP	\$54,745	\$99,985	\$50-55,000
CNM	\$58,240	\$78,000	\$60-65,000
CRNA	\$80,833	\$120,000	\$80-85,000
FNP	\$56,155	\$102,076	\$50-55,000
GNP	\$55,853	\$82,160	\$50-55,000
PMHNP	\$59,958	\$118,518	\$55-60,000
PNP	\$55,927	\$104,000	\$50-55,000
WHCNP	\$55,265	\$99,985	\$50-55,000

ARNPs, in all specialties, working full-time reported these benefits:

- Vacation for 89.4% with an average vacation of 3.59 weeks and a range of 1 to 6 weeks
- Malpractice Insurance paid for 79.2%
- Medical Insurance for 87.7%
- Disability Insurance paid for 48.7%
- Retirement for 80.1%
- Continuing Education for 88.1%
- No benefits for 8.5%

On-call requirements for those working full-time were:

- No on-call duties for 52.5%
- Phone on-call only for 7.6%, of which 16.7% receive additional compensation
- Other on-call for 39.8%, of which 28.7% receive additional compensation

A productivity bonus was given to 17.2% of ARNPs who worked either full-time or part-time.

Legislative Update

by Larry Kerschner, ARNP and
Gail Toraason McGaffick, JD

ARNP Round Table. Many of you may remember that the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) has been meeting since 1996 in an effort to determine whether the rules governing ARNPs should be modified. While the short answer is "yes", exactly what those changes should be is yet to be determined. There have been several issues driving these discussions, but the main one has been the creation of new ARNP specialties in a variety of practice areas. Examples are acute care, perinatal care, and oncology. NCQAC believes that adding new specialties to the current WACs is a time consuming process, particularly in

light of the extensive requirements of regulatory reform. The Commission is looking for an easier and less expensive way of adding these new specialties to the WACs as they emerge. As a result, one recommendation that will be discussed at the July 23rd NCQAC Workshop (details listed at the end of this article) is to protect the titles CNM, CRNA, or ARNP. For those of you who are ARNPs in specialties other than CNM or CRNA, you would be expected to use the initials ARNP. This would allow greater flexibility for adding new specialties, because they'll simply be considered another ARNP. A different perspective is that narrowing of the titles could lead to confusion among the public in understanding what type of ARNP is providing care for them. In addition, there are other recommendations that will be considered on this topic to include maintaining the current system as is or adding those new specialties of which we're currently aware, and then using the generic ARNP for any new ones. As you can see, nothing is set in concrete on this issue.

Another complex issue related to emerging specialties is whether national certification should be required. Because it takes several years for a national certification process to be developed for a new specialty, new entrants would be initially unable to be recognized as an ARNP. There has been considerable debate about this issue in Round Table meetings, with the majority of Round Table participants believing that preserving the requirement of national certification is important for protection of the public. There was also discussion of whether an additional national certification was necessary if an ARNP wanted to change specialties. Most participants in the Round Table process answered yes. Another issue that will be discussed is what methods ARNPs will need to use in order to upgrade or add new skills to their current scope of practice.

The NCQAC will be holding a rules writing workshop on July 23 at 5 pm in Olympia. The address is 1101 Eastside Street. If you are unable to attend this workshop, you are invited to submit written comments to the Department of Health, Attn: Terry West, P.O. Box 47864, Olympia, WA 98504.

There is a mailing that provides additional background on the previously held Round Table meetings that would be helpful for you to read if you're interested in either participating or submitting comments in writing. If you did not receive this mailing, please call the NCQAC at 360-664-4100.

Please note if you did receive the mailing, the draft rules that were included are not accurate. They do not reflect the more recent Round Table discussions, so discard them. The NCQAC will be doing an errata mailing, and those of you on their list should receive it prior to the meeting.

Every Category of Provider Law Upheld. On June 18, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Washington State's "Every Category of Provider" law which mandates health insurance coverage for treatment by licensed providers as long as the condition for which the person is seeking treatment would be covered under the state's Basic Health Plan. An earlier court had ruled the law was pre-empted by ERISA, which seemed like a "unique" argument because the legislation was never applicable to self-insured plans. The insurance industry, which has strenuously objected to the implementation of this 1995 law, may appeal.

Call for Nominations

Now is the time for all good ARNPs to come to the aid of their organization. The positions of ANP, CRNA, and PNP representatives to the ARNPs United Board are up for election this fall. Nominations are currently being accepted and can be sent to ARNPs United, 212 Railroad Av N, Kent, WA 98032 or au@nurse.org. Self-nominations are welcome. Nominations should arrive by August 31, 1998. The term of office is 3 years commencing January 1, 1999.

Shorter Wait for Basic Health's Low-Cost Coverage

Do you know someone who needs low-cost health care coverage? If so, the Washington Basic Health Plan has some good news! Effective May 1, Basic Health no longer has a reservation list for subsidized (reduced-premium) coverage! People interested in applying for Basic Health coverage can call toll free 1-800-826-2444 to request an application 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Basic Health currently provides health care coverage to Washington State residents and employer groups through contracting with 14 private health plans. Members pay monthly premiums (based on income, age, family size, and health plan choice) and small copayments when they receive services. Many families

pay as little as \$10 or \$15 per month for each adult enrolled. With Basic Health, there are also no deductibles or coinsurance.

If you know people who would like to receive an application packet for Basic Health or Basic Health Plus coverage, have them

call 1-800-826-2444 and follow the recorded instructions. The Basic Health application packet provides instructions on how to apply for coverage, as well as eligibility, benefit, and premium cost information on Basic Health and Basic Health Plus programs.

Presidential Reflections

by Patti Varley

At the end of my year as President of ARNPs United, I thought I would take the opportunity to say "thank you" for this experience. It certainly was a year of incredible growth for me, and I hope for the organization as well. ARNPs should be thankful for the numerous hours of commitment their specialty representatives give to the Board. I could not have done my job without the Board members support. I also need to thank Bob Smithing for his ongoing support in so many ways of this organization, as well as for his constant support to me. I was also blessed with the presence of a wonderful lobbyist, Gail McGaffick, who was always there when needed, and I could not have survived this past difficult legislative session without.. Our new hired support staff Debby has also been incredibly efficient and helpful and is an invaluable asset to our organization. I also want to thank many of the individual ARNPs I have had contact with this past year who have broadened my views and perceptions.

As I look back I can only hope that I had a small role in helping to further develop an organization that represents all nurse practitioners in a united and professional way.

Propulsid Warning

In a "Dear Health Care Professional" letter dated June 26, 1998 Janssen Pharmaceutica announced labeling changes for Propulsid®.

Warning: Serious cardiac arrhythmias including ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, torsades de pointes, and QT prolongation have been reported in patients taking Propulsid®. Many of these patients also took drugs expected to increase cisapride blood levels by inhibiting the cytochrome P450 3A4 enzymes that metabolize cisapride. These drugs include clarithromycin, erythromycin, troleandomycin, nefazodone, fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole, indinavir and ritonavir. Some of these events have been fatal. Propulsid® is contraindicated in patients taking any of these drugs. QT prolongation, torsades de pointes (sometimes with syncope), cardiac arrest and sudden death have been reported in patients taking Propulsid® without the above-mentioned contraindicated drugs. Most patients had disorders that may have predisposed them to arrhythmias with cisapride. Propulsid® is contraindicated for those patients with: history of prolonged electrocardiographic QT intervals; renal failure; history of ventricular arrhythmias, ischemic heart disease, and con-

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gestive heart failure; uncorrected electrolyte disorders (hypokalemia, hypomagnesemia); respiratory failure; and concomitant medications known to prolong the QT interval and increase the risk of arrhythmia, such as certain antiarrhythmics, including those of Class I A (such as quinidine and procainamide) and Class III (such as sotalol); tricyclic antidepressants (such as amitriptyline); certain tetracyclic antidepressants (such as maprotiline); certain antipsychotic medications (such as certain phenothiazines and sertindole); astemizole, bepridil, sparfloxacin and terodiline. (The preceding lists of drugs are not comprehensive.) Recommended doses of Propulsid® should not be exceeded.

Additional information is available on NP Central <http://www.nurse.net/>

Duract Withdrawn from Use

In a "Dear Health Care Professional" letter dated June 22, 1998 Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories announced the voluntary market withdrawal of Duract (bromfenac sodium capsules), a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesic. This action is based on postmarketing reports of severe hepatic failure, resulting in four deaths and eight liver transplants. Additional information can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/1998/safety98.htm#duract2>.

Classified Ads

Nurse Practitioner Positions

The Seattle-King County Department of Public Health seeks experienced nurse practitioners to provide comprehensive healthcare services with a focus on reproductive/sexual health to a diverse adolescent population at the Kent Teen Clinic. This is an exciting multidisciplinary and collaborative practice with community partners and providers. Requires ARNP license with prescriptive authority in Washington State, Masters degree in Nursing, preferred. Full, part-time and intermittent positions are available; positions open until filled. An offer of employment will be contingent on the success of a pre-employment physical examination. Interested applicants should submit a King County application form, resume and letter of interest to David Reyes, Public Health Center at Kent, 1404 S. Central Ave, Suite 111, Kent, WA 98032. Contact David Reyes by phone: 206-205-8787 or E-mail: David.Reyes@METROK.COV for further inquiries.

Behavioral Health NP

Established multidisciplinary behavioral health group seeks nurse practitioner with prescriptive authority. Case mix includes counseling and psychotherapy as well as medication services to patients receiving counseling from other practitioners in the group. Unique opportunity to participate with a fully integrated practice group without moving your current practice or assuming other overhead costs. Call Dr Phil Hirsch at 206-729-1166.

Fertility Clinic NP

Nurse Practitioner needed for exciting position in Bellevue, Washington Fertility Clinic. All facets of patient care emphasized including IVG, inseminations, ultrasound, assist in minor surgery. Physician prepared to train right person! Please call 425-462-6100 or fax 425-635-0742.

Family/Psychiatric NP

Nurse Practitioner (ARNP in psychiatric or family specialty area) with prescriptive authority. Full time shared position for a rural (frontier) community mental health center and rural (frontier) community medical clinic and hospital/nursing home. Must meet Washington State

requirements. Open until filled. Send resume to Ferry County Community Services, 42 Klondike Road, Republic, WA 99166, phone: 509-775-3314. EOE/ADA.

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.

Family ARNP or Physician Assistant

ARNP or PA for family practice clinic in Richland, WA. Flexible schedule, good working environment, supportive personnel. Our community has good schools, active community programs with community colleges and a high livability index. Send your CV to Robert L Whitson, DO, 1215 George Washington Way, Suite 1, Richland, WA 99352 or fax to 509-946-5326, phone: 509-946-5233.

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.

Continuing Education

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.

*** 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 & Continuing Education Announcements 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 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*, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032. Phone 253-852-9042. Fax 253-480-0002. Email care@nurse.net

ARNPs United

Individual memberships are \$150 per year. Lifetime memberships are \$1000. Student currently enrolled in a ARNP program may join for \$50 per year. Make your check out to ARNPs United and mail it to: ARNPs United, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent WA 98032. Phone: 253.480.1035, fax: 253.380.7725, email: au@nurse.org



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