

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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HCFA NP Educational Requirements Changed

ACNP Press Release

The nurse practitioner educational requirements for Medicare Part B reimbursement originally announced in the November 2, 1998 *Federal Register* will be modified. According to Regina Walker-Wren, a member of the Center for Health Plans and Providers staff and lead contact for issues involving nurse practitioners under the Final Rule, it is expected that the master's degree preparation requirement will be eliminated. A nurse practitioner will, however, have to be nationally certified to qualify to directly bill for Part B reimbursement. In order to provide nurse practitioners, who are not nationally certified an opportunity to obtain certification, HCFA intends to include a three year grace period in which nurse practitioners who meet all the reimbursement qualifications, except national certification, will be eligible for Part B reimbursement.

HCFA is hoping to publish a technical correction notice outlining the specifics of these changes in February. In the interim, Ms. Walker-Wren stated that HCFA has not issued any policy changes to carriers implementing the November rule making and therefore, business should remain "status quo." Nurse practitioners should continue to bill Medicare Part B in the same manner as prior to January 1, 1999.

ARNPs United Board

The current representatives on the ARNPs United Board of Directors are:

Steve Felton, ANP
Susie Wilson, CNM
Todd W. Herzog, CRNA
Ted Ritter, FNP
Jerri Henry, GNP
Ramona J. Zuill, NNP
Ronald Young, Organization Rep
Patti Varley, PMHNP
Sherry Foutch, PNP
Lori Taggart, WHCNP

The next Board meeting is April 12th, a Monday, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Then, July 12th, also a Monday, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Then Wednesday afternoon September 22nd before the fall conference. All are welcome.

President's Corner

by Hazel Fleck

I hope you are all rested up from the Holidays and ready to go to work. The Legislative session is starting and we want you to be ready to talk to your legislator. The meeting with OSPI regarding medications to be given in school went very well. This issue should be resolved easily. Please try to attend Nurse Practitioner

Lobby Day. Look for more information in this issue. 1999 can be our year!

OSPI Meeting Update

by Larry Kerschner

A meeting was held December 8, 1998 with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to discuss problems related to administration of oral medications in schools. Current law (RCW 28A.210.260) requires that schools have a written prescription from "a licensed physician or dentist" in order for a non-licensed person at the school to administer oral medications. The meeting was attended by ARNPs United, Department of Health, Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, School Nurse Organization of Washington, Washington Academy of Physicians Assistants, Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians, Washington State NAPNAP, WSNAP and Washington State Podiatric Medical Association. The consensus agreement was to change the wording of the law so that schools can accept a prescription from a practitioner working within the scope of their practice. OSPI will drop a bill into the hopper in the upcoming legislative session. Possible opposition may come from school employees who do not want to be burdened with giving out medications at all. ARNPs United suggestion that the problem would be solved if all schools had a school nurse on campus was met with some laughter. There was also some discussion about how to handle OTC medications and botanical medications. Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss these issues.

ARNP Legislative Day

Will be held on the afternoon of March 1, 1999 in Olympia. We have a unique opportunity this year to complete our prescriptive authority. You have one more month to arrange to get this afternoon off. No excuses! That day we will be making the final push to get our bill through the Legislature. Mark your calendar and plan to have that afternoon off.

Find out who your legislator is and call them! Tell them what a nurse practitioner does and who we are in our communities. Contact the ARNPs United office at 253.480.1035 or au@nurse.org for additional information.

Classified Ads

Family Nurse Practitioner

Vacancy - FNP - St Paul Island, Alaska. Primary and emergent care, busy health center. Communication and administrative skills, ability to travel. ACLS/DEA cards required. Housing, company vehicle, relocation, CME, health/life insurance, annuity. Salary DOE, open until filled. Submit resume with references to: Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc, 401 East Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, Attn: Personnel. Phone: 907-276-2700. Fax: 907-276-4894. E-mail:

apiamary@ptialaska.net. EEO employer, Indian Preference pursuant to P.L. 93-638.

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Psychiatric NP for immediate opening at Sammamish Valley Psychological Services, PS, an established multidisciplinary behavioral health clinic with offices in Redmond and Woodinville. Needs broad clinical skills in assessment, medication and psychotherapy. Independent prescribing experience required. Must work well with managed care. Clinic provides referrals, MCO contracts, billing, office staff, furnished office, voice mail/pager. Call Gregg Schimmel, PhD at 425-883-2623 ext 23. Fax vita 425-883-6241.

Family/Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

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

Gerontology/Adult Nurse Practitioner

SW Washington - Quality, multi-specialty group seeks an experienced Gerontologic Nurse Practitioner to work collaboratively with our PCPs to care for nursing home patients. In addition to direct patient care, this position will be responsible for the development of a Nursing Home Patient Care Program. This five day per week position with no call responsibility is located in a wonderful, family oriented community just 50 minutes north of Portland, Oregon. Our organization is part of an integrated Catholic healthcare delivery system. It is ideal for practitioners who want to join a mission-and value-led, non-profit medical group that emphasizes quality and compassionate care. In addition to quality of life and work we offer competitive compensation, outstanding benefits and a sign-up bonus and relocation allowance. Contact Anne Bennett at 360-414-7596 or fax CV to 360-636-4955: PeaceHealth Medical Group, PO Box 3002, Longview, WA 98632, e-mail: ABennett@PeaceHealth.org.

Locum Tenens Program

The Washington State Locum Tenens Program seeks nurse practitioners interested in rural practice opportunities. Professionals who are interested in helping their rural colleagues while supplementing their incomes. Professionals in transition or who are just out of school. Professionals who just want to do clinical medicine and avoid the business side of the practice. Retired or semi-retired professionals who want to continue to practice intermittently. People who are starting a family and want to practice part-time. The requirements for NPs to participate in the Locum Tenens Program: 1. Have a current Washington license. 2. Be in good standing with the Washington State Nursing Board. If you are seeking short or long-term temporary work, the Washington Locum Tenens Program can help support you in your search and placement. For more information or to apply, contact: Locum Tenens Program, AHEC at WSU Spokane, 601 West First Avenue, Spokane, WA 99204-0399. Phone: 509-358-7640. Fax: 509-358-7647.

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.

Continuing Education

Adult Learning Popular New Year's Resolution

Discover U's Line-Up Loaded with Self-Help National Features January 31 and February 9, 1999. Additional features focus on learning in two popular areas; language and memory. America's foremost language expert, Barry Faber, in one 3-hour course on February 9 will teach you how to learn any language quickly, easily, inexpensively on

your own. Learn on January 31 from Mega Memory national leader, Matthew Goerke, valuable techniques to remember hundreds of names, facts, details and statistics, conversations, recall directions, addresses, anything that you read or hear. These lecturers, plus a host of other talented and qualified experts, are available for media interviews through Discover U. Owned and operated by the award-winning Sacramento-based institution, Learning Exchange, Discover U offers between 200 and 300 lectures, workshops and classes every six weeks designed to stimulate, inspire and enrich the lives of its students. Contact Cheryl Engstrom, public relations consultant for Discover U, at 425-487-0682 or e-mail cheryl@cengstrom.com for more information or to arrange an interview or personal appearance.

Neurophysiology for the Advanced Practice Nurse Everything You Wanted to Learn About Neurotransmitters But Were Afraid to Ask

February 6, 1999. Location: Double Tree Inn, Southcenter Mall, Seattle, WA, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Presented by Mary Ann Nihart, MA, RN, CS. This workshop provides an overview of the cellular structures and mechanisms of neurotransmission and practice applications for rational prescriptive practice. Presented by AAPPN, \$90 members/\$100 for non-members. Earn 7.5 CEUs. Call 206-524-4090 or 1-800-308-7336.

Staying Healthy Physically & Financially

March 8, 9, 10, 1999. Location: Meany Tower Hotel, Seattle, WA. A workshop for ARNPs in all specialty areas sponsored by the Gerontological Nurse Practitioners of Puget Sound as an annual continuing education program. 24 CEUs (10 pharmacy CEUs). Call 1-206-298-1768 for a brochure or questions.

Clinical Pharmacology Series 1999

March 10, 1999	Pediatric Drug Therapy
March 13, 1999	Neonatal Drug Therapy
April 14, 1999	Geriatric Drug Therapy
May 4, 1999	Adult Drug Therapy
May 18, 1999	Women's Health Drug Therapy
June 11, 1999	Neuropsychotropic Drug Therapy

Location: University of Washington, Rotunda (Neonatal Drug Therapy only) and Shoreline Conference Center for all other courses, Seattle, WA. This series of six one-day courses (8 contact hours each session) is designed as a pharmacology update for nurse practitioners working in a variety of specialties. Sessions focus on current recommendations and controversies regarding drug therapy for common problems and include appropriate pharmacotherapeutic principles and recommendations for patient education. Sponsored by: University of Washington School of Nursing. Contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle, WA 98195-7260, phone: 206-543-1047, www.son.washington.edu/~cne/.

Hot Topics in Primary Care: New Approaches to Allergic Rhinitis, Asthma, Diabetes and Hepatitis B & C

May 16-18, 1999. Location: Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico. This three day course sponsored by the University of Washington School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy, will cover current topics in the recognition, treatment and outcomes of allergic rhinitis, asthma, diabetes and hepatitis B & C. Experts will present on evidence-based approaches to the treatment of common clinical problems encountered in primary care practice. Fee: \$125. For further information, contact Penny Evans at 206-616-4587 or e-mail: pennye@u.washington.edu.



1999 Nurse Practitioner Salary Survey

Since 1993 NPSS has been gathering information from nurse practitioners in order to better answer questions about nurse practitioner salaries. The information is reported as a composite with no identifying information kept. Salary reports are available in a searchable database at <http://www.nurse.net/salary/summary.shtml>. For more information call us at 800.467.7701 or Email us at npss@nurse.net.

Bob Smithing

**Send the completed survey to:
Nurse Practitioner Support Service, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032
or fax it to: 253.852.7725
or complete the survey on the web at: www.nurse.net/salary/survey.shtml**

1. What is your zip code at work? _____ 2. What state or territory do you work in? _____
3. Select the **best** description for the community you practice in. City Rural Suburban (anything not city or rural)
4. Select the **best** description of your work setting.

<input type="checkbox"/> College Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency/Urgent Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty in NP or Nursing Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Government Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> HMO	<input type="checkbox"/> In-patient Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Locums or contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Long Term Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> NP Owned Practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary care (not HMO)
<input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Health Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Researcher	<input type="checkbox"/> School Based Practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Specialty care
5. Select the **best** description for the specialty you practice in.

<input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care NP	<input type="checkbox"/> Admin	<input type="checkbox"/> ANP	<input type="checkbox"/> CNM	<input type="checkbox"/> CNM + FNP	<input type="checkbox"/> CNS	<input type="checkbox"/> CRNA
<input type="checkbox"/> FNP	<input type="checkbox"/> GNP	<input type="checkbox"/> NNP	<input type="checkbox"/> OHNP	<input type="checkbox"/> PMHNP	<input type="checkbox"/> PNP	<input type="checkbox"/> SNP
<input type="checkbox"/> WHCNP	<input type="checkbox"/> Other APN (list)					
6. How many years have you been in practice as a nurse practitioner? _____ (To nearest whole year)
7. What is your highest academic degree? Associate's Bachelor's Certificate Diploma Doctorate Master's
8. Your gross salary (before taxes) without overtime or bonuses is: (Only one answer is needed.)
 _____ hourly _____ every 2 weeks _____ monthly _____ yearly
9. What are you considered? Full-time Part-time
10. How many hours are you **paid to work** in one week? 32 hrs 35 hrs 37.5 hrs 40 hrs _____ hrs
11. How many hours do you **actually work** in one week? 32 hrs 35 hrs 37.5 hrs 40 hrs _____ hrs
12. How much of your time, if any, is spent in a formal administrative role?
 0% 1% to 25% 26% to 50% 51% to 75% 76% to 100%
13. Are you eligible for benefits, such as paid vacation or insurance, in addition to your salary? Yes No
if yes, what benefits medical insurance malpractice insurance vacation continuing education retirement
 disability insurance other (please list): _____
if yes, how many weeks of vacation would you get each year **as a full time employee** 1 2 3 4 5 6
14. Are you on-call? Yes, other than phone only Yes, telephone only No
if yes, do you receive additional payment for your time on call? Yes No Briefly describe your payment. _____

15. Do you receive any productivity bonus in addition to your salary? Yes No
if yes please briefly describe how your bonus works and how much it is. _____

16. Are you **personally** authorized to prescribe? Yes No

Meeting Announcements

Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners will meet on Wednesday, February 17th at Umberto's Ristorante, 100 S King St, Seattle, WA. Program: Hyperlipidemia Speaker: John Brunzell, MD. Networking begins at 6 pm, dinner at 6:45 pm followed by the presentation. To attend, please RSVP to Suzanne Green at 206-284-3802.

Ad Information

Copy deadline is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Ads may be accepted later then 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

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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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