

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Suboxone & ARNPs

In the article titled Passage of our “72 Hour” Bill! We said that “We now have full prescriptive authority in WA State with no exceptions”. The Federal Government has approved only DOs or MDs who have taken a special certified course and who work with addicted patients to prescribe Suboxone. ARNPs can not prescribe Suboxone (buprenorphine and naltrexone.)

“Refuse and Refer” Update

AUWS and Washington Chapter of ACNM Sign on *In Amicus* against Refuse and Refer

By Ann Darlington

ARNPs United of WA State and the Western WA Chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives have signed on “in amicus” to a medical brief arguing for patient access to prescribed medications, and against “Refuse and Refer” options for pharmacies and pharmacists. We join multiple other medical, public health, human rights, and medical ethics organizations, as well as professionals and professors of law. Recall that in November ’07, U.S. District Court Judge Ronald B. Leighton issued a preliminary injunction putting on hold rules enacted in April ’07 by the Washington State Board of Pharmacy (BOP). The rules (WAC 246-869-010 and WAC 246-863-095) were adopted to protect patients’ access to lawful prescription medications without discrimination or delay. Under these rules, if a pharmacist objects to dispensing a medication for personal, moral, or religious reasons, the pharmacy can accommodate the objecting pharmacist. But the pharmacy must also have on site another pharmacist available to fill the prescription in a timely manner. The overreaching goal of the BOP is to ensure that a pharmacy or pharmacist’s objections do not impede timely access to medications, which could have serious and unpredictable effects on people’s health and safety. Health and safety protection of its citizens are two major functions and responsibilities of government.

Two pharmacists and the legal representatives of Ralph’s Thriftway Pharmacy in Olympia challenged the BOP rules. (Ralph’s is owned by the Storman family.) They claimed that filling prescriptions with which they morally disagree impinges on their constitutional rights. Such prescriptions include but are not limited to “Plan B”, a commercial brand of emergency contraception. Leighton, a conservative judge in Tacoma, agreed with and laid down an injunction against enforcement of the rules until the issue could go to trial in a higher federal court. [See ARNP Care article July ’07]. Challenged in February ’08, Judge Leighton again refused to remove his injunction and thereby permitted it to stand

pending appeal. This means that the BOP rules forbidding “Refuse and Refer” are not enforceable while we await a higher federal court appeal, and thereafter only if the appeal is won. Thus, the current effort to eventually enforce the BOP rules is focused on the trial at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, slated for October 2008.

As the medical amicus brief states, we “are troubled by the district court’s holding, which allows pharmacies to refuse to dispense medications necessary for patients’ health...” A sampling of the list of organizations who are “friends” and “joiners” of the medical brief demonstrates the widespread concern for access to care underlying this issue: the American (and WA State) Public Health Associations, the American Academy of HIV Medicine, the Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Equal Rights Washington, Northwest Health Law Advocates, the WA State Coalition of Mental Health Professionals, the WA State Nurses’ Association, the Women’s Bioethics Project, and the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health. (“PATH” is the international organization that in 1997 initiated the successful pilot program in our state for direct access to emergency contraception from a pharmacist). Several well-known individuals have also joined the medical amicus, including Susan F. Wood, PhD, the nationally respected biologist and women’s health policy specialist. Further, many prominent current and past legislators have signed on in a separate *legislators’* amicus, including Senators Margarita Prentice, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Adam Kline and Rosa Franklin, Representatives Eileen Cody and Mary Lou Dickerson, and former Senators Phil Talmadge and Pat Thibaudeau. And finally, several faith-based organizations and leaders have signed on in a *religious* amicus (see the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice website article at www.rcrc.org/news/brief_Stormans_0308.cfm).

The organizations spearheading the complex legal effort to return to enforcing the BOP rules include Planned Parenthood of WA State, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Northwest Women’s Law Center. Opposing them is the Alliance Defense Fund, a national right wing think tank based in Arizona, and the primary funding source for those claiming the right to “Refuse and Refer” in our state. Peruse their website (<http://www.alliancedefensefund.org>) and you will find that the ADF feels “*blessed to provide some organizations a substantial portion of their funding for various cases and projects, and for some a significant portion of their total litigation budget... in the legal struggles for religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and to preserve marriage and the traditional family*”. Although most obstetric experts, including the American College of Ob-

stetricians and Gynecologists, state that emergency contraception is not an abortifacient, the ADF claims it is an "abortion-producing drug" and therefore pharmacists should have the right to refuse to participate in "the taking of human life".

The defendants in the "Refuse and Refer" case in the 9th Circuit Court are Mary Selecky of the WA Department of Health and Judith Billings. (Billings is the past Superintendent of Public Instruction who became infected with HIV from infertility treatments in the early 80s, and is currently board chair of the National Association of People with AIDS.) The plaintiffs are Stormans Incorporated, the owners of Ralph's Thriftway. The medical amicus brief for the defendants focuses on protection of public health and access to care, and asks the court "to explain why the State's ability to enforce laws that prohibit pharmacies from refusing to deliver lawfully-prescribed drugs to patients in a timely manner jeopardizes patients' health, and interferes with physicians' legal and ethical obligations to protect their patients' health." They are particularly focused on the emergency element of some meds, whose efficacy (and therefore the patient's health) is compromised by delay, like drugs treating mental health, HIV, and emergency contraception.

The focus in this case is on "Plan B", but if the BOP rules were overturned, the option to Refuse and Refer would not be limited to any one drug or class of drugs. It would be left to the discretion of individual pharmacies and pharmacists to decide which prescriptions are acceptable to fill and dispense. That is why such a wide range of people and organizations, advocates for people with HIV, mental health, women's right to choose, and (above all) access to care, recognize the long-term underlying threat. Any prescription could one day be found objectionable. Any consumer could be turned away. Anyone's health could be seriously affected.

Why Join the Nurse Practitioner Directory?

The Washington State Nurse Practitioner directory at www.auws.org can help us to link together as professionals and provide a means to refer patients to other nurse practitioners. But it will only work if we have nurse practitioners who are willing to sign-up to be listed in the NP Directory. In a world where the information age has truly arrived our tremendous efforts as Health Care Providers may go unnoticed if we don't give consumers a way to find us.

Direct-to-Consumer Advertising Petition

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) continues to work with the pharmaceutical and medical device industry to encourage provider-neutral language in all direct-to-consumer (DTC) ads. AANP has created

a petition to further demonstrate the importance of this issue to the NP profession. Please take a few minutes to read and sign the petition by visiting the following URL: <http://66.219.50.185/petition>.

Details on petition progress will be posted on our Web site www.aanp.org.

Are You an Expert on a Topic of Interest to Midwives?

By Heather Bradford

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Annual Meeting is coming to Seattle in May of 2009. Abstracts for dynamic speakers are due July 31st, 2008. The ACNM welcomes abstract submissions relevant to the art and science of midwifery including clinical management of obstetric and gynecologic conditions, psychosocial support, provision of care, evaluation, business management, diversity, quality improvement, research, public policy, ethical dilemmas, leadership, education and public advocacy. Over 1500 midwives and nurse practitioners, who specialize in women's health care, attend this dynamic annual meeting. All workshops and education sessions must qualify for continuing education units (CEUs). To submit an abstract, go to <http://www.midwife.org/AM/index.cfm> and click on "2009 Call for Abstracts." Email questions to hbradford@comcast.net.

Classified Ads

Tacoma, WA – Cardiothoracic Surgery ARNP

Fantastic opportunity! Seeking full time cardiothoracic surgical ARNP to become an integral member of our adult cardiothoracic surgery team. Responsibilities include first assist in the operating room as well as pre and postoperative patient care in hospital and office. Ideal candidate will have 3+ years of cardiothoracic surgical experience including cardiothoracic first assistant experience. Endoscopic vessel harvesting experience preferred. Guaranteed salary, a full array of benefits and a great location makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org.

Please reference opportunity #616-780

Full and Part-time FNP - Tacoma, WA

MultiCare Express, a part of MultiCare Health System, is a retail based practice located in area pharmacies. The express clinic will offer high quality care for simple illnesses such as sore throats, URI, UTI, sinusitis with point of care testing and some common immunizations. This is a great opportunity to practice autonomously in a unique setting. Master of Science degree in nursing and national certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner is required. MultiCare Health System offers competitive compensation/benefits as well as flexible full-time and part-time schedules. For more information please contact Provider Services @ 800-621-0301 or send CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org.

Please reference opportunity #643-798-800

Tacoma, WA – ARNP – Adult Medicine

Internal Medicine group seeks a full-time Adult Nurse Practitioner to work in a collaborative practice providing comprehensive primary healthcare in all aspects of internal medicine. Position offers a great opportunity for the NP to provide care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities if desired. Candidates must be eligible for licensure & certification in Washington State. Excellent compensation, benefits, and group stability makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information regarding this fantastic opportunity, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send your CV to blazenew-trails@multicare.org.

Please reference opportunity #680-840

Nurse Practitioners Wanted

Support the mission of Planned Parenthood of Western Washington (PPWW) by joining our talented & dedicated medical team. You may be eligible for a sign on bonus!

Seeking Clinician candidates to provide comprehensive reproductive health & family planning services.

WA State NP/CNM/PA-C w/prescriptive authority, current certification & CPR card required.

PT Float (S Puget Sound area)

PT Float (N Puget Sound area)

PT Bremerton (Th & every other W)

PT Tacoma (M, F, Sa)

PT University Place (Tu, W, F)

PT Everett (2)

Please submit cover ltr/resume to jobs@ppww.org; fax: 206.328.6818; or Mail: PPWW/HR, 2001 E. Madison, Seattle, WA 98122 www.ppww.org EOE

ARNP-Kitsap Mental Health Services

Variety is the spice for this position at one of *Washington's Best Companies to Work For* (WA CEO Magazine). You'll spend five hours each weekday (25hrs/wk) providing comprehensive psychiatric medical assessment and clinical leadership in support of the young clients and talented staff on our Youth Inpatient Unit. While some may choose to call this a day, others can diversify by taking on an additional 15 hours per week on our Adult Inpatient Clinic, providing psychiatric evaluation, medication management, follow-up and consultation. Licensure as ARNP with psychiatric specialty and prescriptive authority required.

For application and additional information, visit our website at www.kitsapmentalhealth.org, or contact our jobline at 360.373-0122 #2.

Kitsap Mental Health Services (Attn: HR) - 5455 Almira Drive NE, Bremerton, WA 98311; fax to 360.478.0951. AA/EOE

Nurse Practitioner - Seattle, WA

For over a century, Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center in Seattle, Washington has met the needs of children and their families throughout the Pacific Northwest. As a center providing life-enhancing pediatric care to children in our region, we are proud of our recognition as a "Top Ten" best children's hospital by U.S. News & World Report. We are recruiting for an ARNP for Cardiology who will provide direct clinical care, case management, education program development, consultation and leadership for Heart Center patients. Their primary clinical focus will be support for cardiac surgery and heart transplant patients. This

position also provides clinical back-up for cardiology and EP patients. This ARNP must be able to work a flexible schedule with some on-call.

Requirements: Master's in Nursing, Washington State RN License, ARNP license with prescriptive authority in WA State, current BLS and ability to perform CPR. Other requirements are ARNP with primary care experience and strong RN cardiac experience **or** ARNP experience in a high acuity setting; pediatric nursing experience preferred.

We offer excellent pay and benefits, retirement plans, paid training days and more.

For immediate consideration, apply online at www.seattlechildrens.org/jobs or call our Nurse Recruiters at 1-800-847-6691. EOE.

ARNP Wanted - Spokane, WA

Established Internal Medicine Hospitalist Service seeks two full-time ARNPs to assist with inpatient care at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA. Qualified candidates will have graduated from an accredited/certified NP program and be licensed in the State of Washington. Duties include completing H&P examinations, preparing patients for discharge, and assisting with the management of chronically ill patients. Schedule will be comprised of 12-hour shifts, 7 days on, 7 days off. Please contact Beth Tubbs at 509-474-3260 or email cover letter and CV to tubbsbeth-anyn@intmedspokane.org

CE Opportunities**Clinical Pharmacology Series 2008**

May 21 - Adult/Geriatric Drug Therapy

June 8 - Neuropsychotropic Drug Therapy

Times: 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Location: Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle

For a brochure or more information:

Sheila Keener - 206.543.1047 [or our website: uwcne.org](http://www.uwcne.org)

Practicing Clinicians Exchange (PCE)

Up to 13.5 FREE CME/CE Credits

June 21, 2008. Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

PCE is a national CME/CE program designed to meet the specific educational needs of nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs). New topics in primary care include HPV vaccine, herpes zoster, dyslipidemia, type 2 diabetes, restless legs syndrome, and more. Earn up to 13.5 complimentary CME/CE credits by participating in a 1-day live symposium and completing the home study activity. Breakfast, lunch, and parking will also be provided FREE OF CHARGE. Visit our Web site at www.practicingclinicians.com to register for an interactive symposium near you. Reserve your seat today as space is limited.

Healthy Humor**Visit to the Nurse Practitioner**

A man goes to the NP and says:

"It hurts when I press here" (pressing his side)

"And when I press here" (pressing the other side)

"And here" (his leg)

"And here, here and here" (other leg and both arms)

So the NP examined him all over and finally discovered what was wrong..."You've got a broken finger!"

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.

ARNPs United of WA State
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