

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

May 2009

## Mentoring Nurse Practitioners in Private Practice

By Maddy Wiley & Bob Smithing

NP Central (NPC) will begin hosting evening discussions once a month from September through June each year about being an NP in a private practice. The purpose of these discussions will be to share “pearls of practice” for any NP who either works in a private group practice setting (as either an employee or an owner) or is in private practice his/her self. Student NPs are welcome to come at any time.

Over the years NP Central has fielded thousands of inquiries about how to do many things in practice from billing questions to insurance reimbursement to salary and compensation formulas to finding used equipment, etc. The mission of NPC is to foster NP practice in the many different forms it takes. The authors of this article Bob Smithing and Maddy Wiley are also the founders of NPC. While it is now a non-profit organization (501C3) we are both still very much involved in the original mission. We have now been in private practice in Kent for over 24 years. We have had business entities throughout a range of business practices including a “Schedule C” business, an S corporation with 2 NP owners, employed by a non-profit hospital clinic system, employed by a for profit corporation and now back to an S corporation owned by 4 NPs.

We realize that what we have done is not the norm for many NPs. But at the same time we want to continue to foster the development of NPs who either want to own or work in a private NP practice, or continue to become a valuable productive NP in any organization. To do that NPs MUST have knowledge about the inner workings of what it takes to operate a successful primary care practice. While many books give all the details about how to do this, they really can't give an NP an experiential base. By the time books are published much of the information is either out of date or not related to the area where you work now or would like to work in the future. And while we now have immense knowledge at our fingertips via the Internet it is not the same as talking and sharing information on a more personal basis.

Someone asked us recently what goals we had for ourselves for the next part of our careers. One goal is to leave behind a “legacy practice” that other NPs can take over and continue to operate successfully. And we'd like to see more of these practices become operational as

NPs continue to be at the forefront of primary care. To that end we have noticed that when NPs get together it is usually for a CE program or to work on NP issues from a political/organizational angle and while we need these meetings they do not leave a lot of time for talking about the nuts and bolts of being in practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We would like to open our doors and invite any NP to come and spend an evening “visiting” about what it takes to be a successful NP in our practice environments today.

Our first “Open House” will be Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30pm, located in the lobby of FamilyCare of Kent. Food and beverages will be provided. An RSVP is not required but would be nice if you want some food ☺ Email Maddy at [mwiley@familycareofkent.com](mailto:mwiley@familycareofkent.com). Directions to the office can be found at [www.familycareofkent.com](http://www.familycareofkent.com). May's topic of discussion will be about how to market yourself as a NP provider and about how to market your practice. Bring any marketing materials you might want to share. Keep in mind that these are “open” discussions so we might not always stay on topic and that is OK.

Future Open Houses will be listed in the meeting section of ARNP Care but you can plan on coming the last Thursday of the month in June and then take the summer off and come back in September. We'll continue these open house discussions as long as we see an interest and a need.

Maddy Wiley & Bob Smithing are the editors of ARNP Care as well as practice owners at FamilyCare of Kent.

## Legislative Wrap Up

The 2009 legislative session adjourned on April 26, 2009. The legislature had the unenviable task of closing a \$9 billion dollar budget deficit. A portion of the budget deficit was covered by federal funds however some significant cuts were necessary with many coming from health care. The Basic Health Plan will be reduced by about 40,000 people. The Medical General Assistance – Unemployable was eliminated. This cuts coverage for people who have had temporary Medicaid assistance while unable to work or while waiting for a disability evaluation. Higher education also took many cuts and this will affect nursing education. Some specific bills that passed are as follows.

**SB 5608 Concerning genetic counselors:** This bill establishes the genetic counseling profession. Testimony was provided regarding how ARNPs already provide

genetic counseling services within their scope of practice and that registered nurses also provide some aspects of genetic counseling. The exclusive use of the title “genetic counseling” and the restriction of the use of similar titles do not prevent ARNPs or RNs from continuing current practice. The bill passed the legislature and has been delivered to the Governor for signature.

**HB 2041 Tamper-resistant prescriptions:** This law requires that every prescription written in this state by a licensed practitioner be written on a tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper approved by the Board of Pharmacy.

**SB 5891 Medical Home Reimbursement Demonstration Pilot Project:** HCA and DSHS must design, oversee implementation, and evaluate one or more primary care medical home reimbursement pilot projects. ARNPs are included in this legislation. The agencies must determine the number and location of the pilots; determine criteria to select primary care clinics to serve as pilot sites; select pilot sites from those clinics that currently include activities typically associated with medical homes or from sites that have been selected by DOH to participate in the medical home collaboratives; determine reimbursement methods to be tested; and identify performance measures for clinical quality, chronic care management, cost, and patient experience.

**HB 1071 An act relating to advanced registered nurse practitioners:** Advanced registered nurse practitioners are specifically added to the list of mental health professionals who can recommend and provide certain mental health treatment including evaluations for involuntarily detained psychiatric patients. This bill was a technical correction to complete legislation from 2008 that inadvertently omitted certain statutes that needed to be amended to make this authorization complete.

**SB 5945 Washington Health Partnership Plan:** This is a health care reform bill that aims to expand insurance coverage for Washington families through a Medicaid waiver. Beginning October 1, 2009, the Governor must convene quarterly meetings with the Washington Health Partnership Advisory Group to monitor health reform efforts, including Medicaid waivers that are submitted as directed in this act, efforts to consolidate state purchasing of health care, reforms in the private health insurance market to provide more affordable health insurance options, and progress of health care reform at the federal level.

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### Conserve Antivirals

Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH, Washington State Health Officer has sent a letter appealing to health profession-

als to be good stewards of antiviral medications. Hayes writes:

*“Simply put, there is not an unlimited supply of antiviral medications like oseltamivir (TamiFlu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®). Building personal stockpiles uses antivirals that are then not available for people who are seriously ill with influenza due to swine flu or seasonal human flu viruses should a shortage occur. In addition, a limited supply threatens our ability to give prophylaxis to exposed people who are at high risk for severe complications and death due to influenza viruses (e.g., pregnant women). The use of these medications to treat persons with mild influenza without risk factors for severe complications may also reduce the supply for persons at risk for more severe disease.*

*CDC recommendations for antiviral treatment and prophylaxis of swine influenza, including dosing recommendations are available at [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/).*

*You control the supply of these antiviral drugs through your prescription-writing authority and behaviors. Although you all care deeply for our patients, I would like to encourage a high level of stewardship with regards to these potentially limited anti-influenza medications”*

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### Nursing Commission Evaluator Recruitment

The Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission is seeking qualified health care providers to conduct mental or physical evaluations of licensed nurses who have violated the standards of nursing practice and/or professional conduct.

Openings are limited to psychiatrists, other physicians, psychologists, and advanced registered nurse practitioners certified in treatment of sexual offenders and/or mental illness.

The applicant must also have a minimum of five (5) years of experience in assessment and treatment in area of specialization, been licensed for at least two-years in Washington state, and have had no disciplinary action in any state;

Desired expertise includes pain management, sexual deviancy/sexual misconduct, professional boundary violations, depression/mental impairment, neurological disorders, neuropsychological impairment due to brain injuries and/or dementia, and general physical impairments.

Complete requirements are set forth in NCQAC Policy No. A24.05, *Approval of Evaluators in Nurse Discipline Cases*.

The evaluation process includes:

- A review of the nurse’s disciplinary file;

- A medical, physical, mental and social history of the nurse;
- A review of nurse's medical records;
- An assessment of the nurse's physical and mental condition.
- A diagnosis of the nurse's condition, conclusions, prognosis, and recommended treatment;
- Assessment of the nurse's ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety.
- Availability, when called upon, to assist the Attorney General's Office in the preparation of legal charges and to testify at disciplinary hearings.

If you are interested in serving as an expert evaluator for the Nursing Commission, please submit a letter of interest including:

- Credential number.
- Areas of clinical expertise with a minimum of 5 years experience.
- Knowledge of nursing practice and experience evaluating nurses and/or health professionals.
- Hourly fee for the services set forth above.
- Ability to schedule an evaluation within ten business days, and to complete and submit the evaluation to meet the schedule of the order.
- Curriculum vitae completed within the last 12 months, including employment dates.
- A sample completed evaluation.

To:  
 WA State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission  
 Mary Dale, Health Service Consultant  
 PO Box 47864, Olympia WA 98504-7864  
 Email: mary.dale@doh.wa.gov

Submit by June 15, 2009. If you have questions, please feel free to call Mary Dale at (360) 236-4744.

**Classified Ads**

**Tacoma, WA – Hematology Oncology PA or ARNP**

Awesome opportunity! We are searching for a Hematology Oncology PA or ARNP to join a well established and expanding comprehensive cancer program in the Pacific Northwest. Practice includes 7 medical oncologists, 3 advanced level practitioners and 3 radiation oncologists, in a dynamic setting integrated with a 300 physician centered multi-specialty medical group. Conveniently located on the main campus of our 391-bed tertiary care center, the practice includes in-office chemo suites, pharmacy, lab, on site radiation, plus a 22 bed dedicated inpatient oncology medical surgical unit. Located just 30 miles south of Seattle, on the shores of Puget Sound, you'll experience the best of Northwest living, from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. Guaranteed salary, a full array of benefits, and a great location make for an exciting practice opportunity. Please email your CV to MultiCare Health System Provider Services at [blazenewtrails@multicare.org](mailto:blazenewtrails@multicare.org). Website: [www.blazenewtrails.org](http://www.blazenewtrails.org). Please refer to Opportunity #1007 when responding. "MultiCare Health System is a Drug Free Workplace"

**Tacoma, WA - Occupational Medicine ARNP**

MultiCare HealthWorks, a division of MultiCare Health System seeks an ARNP to join an established occupational medicine program.

Qualified applicants must be flexible, self-motivated, committed to program development and have at least 1 year primary care or urgent care experience. As a MultiCare employee, you will enjoy excellent compensation, benefits and system-wide support. For more information please contact Provider Services @ 800-621-0301 or send CV to [blazenewtrails@multicare.org](mailto:blazenewtrails@multicare.org). Refer to opportunity ID #777-941. "MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace."

**Nurse Practitioners  
 Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest**

Join our talented & dedicated medical team! - Sign on bonus up to \$3000!  
 Seeking Clinician candidates to provide comprehensive reproductive health & family planning services.  
 AK or WA State NP/CNM/PA-C w/prescriptive authority, current certification & CPR card required  
 Alaska opportunities - FT/PT - Juneau; PT (M-Th) - Soldotna; PT (M, W, F) - Fairbanks  
 WA opportunities - PT Float (S Puget Sound area; PT Bremerton (Th & every other W); PT Olympia (Tu, Th, F);  
 FT Puyallup (M-F)  
 Please apply for any positions at:  
<http://plannedparenthoodext.hire.com/index.html>. Questions? Contact [jobs@ppgnw.org](mailto:jobs@ppgnw.org).

**Tri-Cities, WA – Independent Practice**

Independent Practice Opportunity located at the hub of the Tri-Cities, Washington. Busy psychiatric practice including office building, all equipment, and patient files. Practice will accommodate two psychiatric practitioners. Seller willing to help with the transition of patients to new practitioners. Serious inquiries only. Call 509-539-3112.

**Bellevue, WA – ARNP Wanted**

New opening for a second ARNP in small, friendly clinic in Bellevue, WA. Experience in rheumatology not necessary but an asset. Experience in primary care is an asset. Physician is an excellent teacher. Problem-solving skills encouraged. What is your dream job? Please send cover letter, resume, references and any "must have" needs or benefits to [sueromanickmdpllc@gmail.com](mailto:sueromanickmdpllc@gmail.com).

**CE Opportunities**

**University of Washington  
 Professional & Continuing Education**

Advance your career in the health field with a quality credential from the UW. Earn a certificate online or in the classroom in Psychological Trauma, Advanced Research in Addiction and the Brain, Geriatric Mental Health, Healthcare Regulatory Compliance, Medical Management, and more. Learn from leading clinicians and researchers and earn Continuing Education Units. For more information, visit [www.extension.washington.edu](http://www.extension.washington.edu)

**Cancer Survivorship for the Primary Care Clinician**

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
 Friday, June 12th, 2009  
 Primary care clinicians are an essential part of a patient's access to appropriate cancer survivorship care and will benefit from the latest information surrounding the management of cancer survivorship issues. This conference is designed for primary care physicians, mid-level providers, as well as ancillary health care professionals involved in management of cancer survivors.  
 The University of Washington School of Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of 5.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.  
 For more information or to register for the conference please call 206-667-2814 or email [survivor@fhcrc.org](mailto:survivor@fhcrc.org)

Meetings

Join us! Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners Association is a non-profit organization supporting ARNPs in Puget Sound since 1998. We meet every other month and offer a social hour/networking and a CME talk. Annual dues are \$35/\$17.50 for students. Apply for membership and find meeting information at http://PSNPA.org

West Sound Advanced Practice Association meets the second Thursday of the month. Meetings include networking/dinner/educational session. E-mail Fionafnp@centurytel.net for more information.

Private Practice NP Discussion Group. All are welcome. First topic will be about marketing your practice. Thursday May 28, 2009. 6:30-8:30. RSVP to mwiley@familycareofkent.com so we can order food and drinks.

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.

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