

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

Vol. 20, No. 6

Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

June 2009

Licensing Fee Increase

By Patti Krafft

You may have noticed an increase in your RN licensing fee this year. What you might not know is how the fee increase came about and what that extra fee may offer you as a healthcare provider.

In 2007, Governor Christine Gregoire commissioned the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access. As you recall, the objective of the commission was to research and recommend methods to provide high quality, affordable health care to individuals residing in Washington State. The result of the commission was Senate Bill 5930 which raised licensing fees for a number of healthcare provider categories. The increased fees go to support the Health Technology and Information Projects, one of many recommended by the commission. The bill requires the Health Care Authority to “design a consumer-centric health information infrastructure with a health record bank, and implement pilot sites that promote electronic medical records and health information exchange, as funding allows. Access to the University of Washington Health Sciences Library is expanded for health professionals”.

The University of Washington Health Sciences Library responded to this request for health information exchange by developing HEAL-WA (Health Evidence Resource for Washington State). HEAL-WA is an evidence-based health sciences information portal designed to provide electronic access to information for many practitioners who do not currently have access to resources through the services of a health sciences library. The site is funded by the add-on to the license fees of these practitioners.

HEAL-WA is available to all professionals licensed by Washington State as registered nurses, physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians' assistants, massage therapists, naturopaths, podiatrists, chiropractors, psychologists, optometrists, mental health counselors, clinical social workers, and acupuncturists. The HEAL-WA website provides practice-specific information to bring value to all the licensed professionals included in the program.

HEAL-WA will give these practitioners access to timely, evidence-based resources to help them answer patient care questions. Evidence-based information is designed to make sure that conclusions are drawn from the best-available evidence. The site will include a variety of resources such as online databases, electronic journals and full text articles and electronic textbooks.

In order to take advantage of the resources provided by HEAL-WA and make good use of your added license fee, you will need to go to HEAL-WA.org and register. It is fairly simple and can be completed in a manner of minutes. Be sure that you enter your RN license, not your NP license.

This is a great way for NPs in to show their ability to provide quality, evidence based care for the people of Washington State. Resources:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5930&year=2007>

Changes to Washington Vaccine Program

Washington's universal childhood vaccine purchase program is changing on July 1, 2009, due to budget cuts in the state budget for the 2009-2011 biennium that was signed by the Governor on May 19th. This article excerpts an e-mail sent by Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH, State Health Officer to health professionals.

The budget directs the Department of Health to:

- ☐ Discontinue state funded purchasing of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine starting July 1, 2009; and then
- ☐ Discontinue state funded purchasing of all other vaccines on May 1, 2010

This means that starting July 1, 2009, children with private health insurance are no longer eligible to receive state-supplied HPV vaccine. Fact sheet about changes for health care providers:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/documents/5-14-09transhpv.pdf>

Providers will still order state supplied HPV vaccine at no charge through their local health department from the State Department of Health for:

VFC eligible children: Children eligible to receive HPV vaccine from the state include: children 18 and younger who are Medicaid-eligible, Native American, Alaskan Native, uninsured, and underinsured (have health insurance, but it does not cover vaccines or has a limit on vaccine coverage), and

Children in state sponsored health plans -DSHS (State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Children's Health Program (CHP), and Apple Health) Health Care Authority – Basic Health Plan (BHP)

Continued participation in the Washington State Childhood Vaccine Program:

- ☐ Allows providers to continue to be the medical home for all children seen in the practice

☐ Promotes full immunization for all children

As you know, the key to strong immunization rates and disease prevention is to assure children have continued access to vaccine.

We are working to set up some conference calls later in June that health care providers can participate in to learn more about the changes and get questions answered.

A list of *Frequently Asked Questions* on Changes to Universal Vaccine Purchasing also is available: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/providers/universal-faq.htm>.

Please contact us or your local health department if you have ideas, questions or concerns. Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program CHILD Profile. Phone: 866.397.0337 E-mail: UniversalChanges@doh.wa.gov

Web-site:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/providers/universal.htm>

Primary Care Providers' Perceptions of Interpretation Services

Health disparities among patients who lack English language proficiency are a national concern and getting more attention. Numerous federal, state, and local initiatives have been implemented to address disparities, but many populations are still disproportionately affected. A major reason for health care disparities is communication and language barriers among health care providers and their patients. Understandably, patients prefer a primary care provider whose language, ethnicity, and cultural background are similar to their own; however, the diversity of primary care providers does not equally match the diversity of the patient population in the United States. Therefore, primary care providers and their patients must rely on interpreters to bridge the challenges of these barriers. The challenges of clinical interpretation include concerns about accuracy and completeness, the complexity of information needed to be conveyed, difficulty understanding information, the additional cost and resources interpretation requires, and issues regarding patient satisfaction.

Washington State University clinical faculty researchers are conducting a study to assess primary care providers' perceptions of language interpretation services they use in their primary care settings where patients do not speak English or the primary care provider does not speak the language of the patient. It will explore the challenges treating patients who require interpretation services, whether these are professional interpretation

services or family members who translate for the patients. Challenges include financial, legal, ethical, and medical implications. The study includes a 5 minute questionnaire that is completed by interested primary care providers (physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and physicians) via a tool called "Survey Monkey" on the internet. They are asking for ARNPs to participate in this important research. The study has been approved by Washington State University IRB. By voluntarily completing the survey you are giving your consent to participate in the study. Results of the study will be reported in *ARNP Care* upon completion of the study. <http://tinyurl.com/azqomu>

Spotlight on a Member: Greg Lind, ARNP

By Kristi Farrell

Greg Lind started his nursing career as an ICU nurse in Missouri. Now he is a nurse practitioner, business owner, researcher, and community volunteer. After talking with this energetic, humble man you'll soon realize that he didn't sit down and plan his whole life course; rather, he continually kept his eyes open and took advantage of the opportunities before him to enrich his practice and the nurse practitioner profession.

In October of 1990 Greg opened his own practice- a primary care-based walk-in clinic 30 minutes north of Seattle. The first day the clinic opened Greg saw two patients. Now his team of nurse practitioners sees 70 to 90 patients per day. Greg attributes this success to the nurse practitioner approach to patient care, the clinic's holiday, evening and weekend hours and a follow-up program where every patient is called back three days after their office visit.

After 25 years of family practice, Greg decided to pursue his interest in men's health by taking advantage of an offer from the Snohomish County Fire District 1. Now, in addition to working at his own clinic, he is also providing wellness exams for all the firemen and women in Fire District 1. Many fire districts have fitness trainers and nutritionists, but few of them also have their own in-house nurse practitioner.

While taking care of the firemen, Greg learned about a research study which showed firefighters have a 300% higher chance of dying under the age of 40 of a cardiovascular event. Greg wants to find out why, so he met with several researchers and clinicians and devised a research study to answer his question. He is currently collecting data from the firemen in his district and is awaiting approval of several grants to continue his research.

Obviously Greg's plate is full, but his eyes are wide open. He believes the "projects to work on are endless and continually evolve as you practice." He is thankful for the wide scope of practice available to nurse practi-

tioners in the state of Washington. According to Greg, "In this state, the doors are wide open for nurse practitioners. What you take the time and energy to do, you can do."

Classified Ads

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.

Wenatchee, WA – ARNP Wanted

Wenatchee Valley Medical Center is seeking an experienced ARNP for Internal Medicine at our Moses Lake Clinic. Join busy group of Internists and two midlevels in busy, established multi-specialty clinic.

Work independently to build your own practice and work within our team of internists to extend their ability to serve current patients. Fully integrated electronic medical record and superb specialty support. Midlevels assist internists on call. Full-time.

Moses Lake Clinic is Wenatchee Valley Medical Center's largest branch campus, with a solid 25-year history of medical excellence and teamwork with other WVMC locations. WVMC is a major area employer with excellent salaries and benefits as a physician-owned and patient-centered multi-specialty group since 1940.

Moses Lake is a growing community where active families thrive. Located on the shores of one of the state's largest natural fresh water lakes with over 120 miles of shoreline and covering 6,500 acres. It is an outdoor recreational oasis featuring numerous parks and campgrounds. Kids enjoy our premier water park, teenagers love the unique opportunities they receive from the 4-A school system, and everyone enjoys the summer concerts at the magnificent Gorge Amphitheater down the road. In addition to the natural beauty of the Columbia Basin, Moses Lake has many convenient, quality attractions and facilities where residents enjoy a variety of family events, concerts and other activities. Whether we want to go to Seattle, Spokane, or Wenatchee, we're an easy road trip away from great shopping and entertainment. Come see why we love it here!

Excellent compensation and benefit package. Send CV: David Weber, MD at JoinUs@wvmedical.com. Learn more at www.wvmedical.com

Wenatchee, WA – Anti-Coagulation Clinic

Wenatchee Valley Medical Center in North Central WA is seeking a ARNP, to provide anticoagulation management in growing hospital-based outpatient anticoagulation clinic. The ACC services include point of care INR testing, warfarin induction, patient education, patient assessment, risk assessment, maintenance dosing, perioperative anticoagulation management, outpatient DVT treatment, and DVT prophylaxis. Consultation with primary care physician and communication with MD specialists, pharmacists and other care services is important to providing quality management of anticoagulants. Background in cardiology, oncology, and/or internal medicine preferred. Anti-coag background desired but not required, we'll train in specialty.

WVMC is a comprehensive and collegial multi-specialty where mid-levels are supported and respected. We're paperless with an electronic medical record that earned "Best Practice" in a recent national physician satisfaction survey. Physician-owned and patient-centered since 1940. Sunny dry 4-season climate – small city of 65,000 surrounded by mountains, rivers and lakes. Serious Medicine. Serious Fun.

Send CV: David Weber, MD at JoinUS@wvmedical.com. Learn more at www.wvmedical.com.

Wenatchee, WA – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Wenatchee Valley Medical Center's Moses Lake Clinic in North Cen-

tral Washington is seeking solution-oriented certified specialist ARNP with prescriptive authority for out-patient practice. Integrated among primary care and specialty physicians. Electronic medical records and full medical clinic support. High production-based salary with initial income guarantee, excellent benefits and retirement.

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Bellingham, WA – ARNP Wanted

Want to live in a college town near the ocean? Join us at Village Family Health in beautiful Bellingham. We offer an ARNP position in our friendly family-practice clinic in Fairhaven, the scenic part of town. We'll consider full and part time inquiries. Please fax cover letter and resume to Village Family Health, 910 Harris Avenue #102, Bellingham, WA 98225, Attn: Frances Gregory.

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 Clinician opportunities

PT/per diem Juneau, AK

PT (M-Th) Soldotna, AK

Western WA Clinician opportunities

PT Tacoma/UPlace (M & W)

PT Float (S Puget Sound area)(Tu-F)

PT Float (W Sea/Puyallup/Silverdale)

Please apply for any positions at: www.ppgnw.org/jobs. Questions?

Email: jobs@ppgnw.org

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phone: 206.201.3226

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 Man-

agement, and more. Learn from leading clinicians and researchers and earn Continuing Education Units. For more information, visit www.extension.washington.edu

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. Topic will be about billing tips. (So bring your favorite tips to share.) Thursday June 25, 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.

ARNPs United of WA State

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NP Central

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Subscriptions are \$25 per year. tax included. Ad rate sheet available on request.



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