

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Inaccuracies in the AMA Scope of Practice Monograph on Nurse Practitioners

By Louise Kaplan, PhD, ARNP

The following paragraph is on page 6 of the AMA monograph on nurse practitioners and purports to summarize research that my colleague Marie-Annette Brown, PhD, ARNP, FAAN, and I conducted on transition of NPs to a new scope of practice.

NP advocacy organizations continue to lobby for immediate scope-of-practice expansions and development of DNP programs, even while some APN advocates warn that the profession is moving too fast. Take, for example, a conclusion drawn by nurse researchers who explored how NPs in Washington State adapted to new regulations allowing them in 2001 to prescribe Schedule II drugs under joint practice agreements with physicians, and in 2005 to prescribe those same drugs independently. By 2006, these researchers determined, 42 percent of NPs in the state had not applied for U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration endorsement to prescribe these drugs. In fact, the researchers reported that some of these NPs indicated they did not want the responsibility of having to deal with potentially drug abusing patients. Instead, many of these NPs stated they “wanted additional education about controlled substances to feel more competent with prescribing these medications.”¹² As a result, one researcher concluded that “NPs need preparation for a new scope of practice long before legislation actually passes.”¹³

There are many inaccuracies in this paragraph.

- There is no documentation that any APN advocate warns the profession is moving too fast.
- The Washington law allowed ARNPs to prescribe Schedule II-IV drugs for the first time, a much broader scope of practice change than just adding Schedule II drugs.
- It was by 2005, four years after the law passed, not 2006, that 40%, not 42% of ARNPs had not applied for Schedule II-IV prescriptive authority. The implementation of the law was in August of 2001, more than a year after the law passed.
- The sentence about NPs not wanting the responsibility of having to deal with potentially drug abusing patients infers that this was the reason 40% had not obtained Schedule II-IV prescriptive authority. First, the term ‘potentially drug abusing patients’ is

not accurate as our research always referred to patients perceived to have drug-seeking behaviors, which is different. Second, NPs with and without Schedule II-IV authority both expressed concern about working with patients perceived to have concern about drug seeking behaviors.

- The use of the word instead in the next sentence is inaccurate. The NPs who wanted additional education about controlled substances were not the ones who expressed concern about patients perceived to have drug-seeking behaviors. Rather, nurse practitioners who had created a practice that excluded Scheduled II-IV drugs when it was not legal to prescribe them identified the need for more education. Further, this data was collected in 2004, less than 2 years after implementation of the law.
- The article that is cited was co-authored by Dr. Brown and I yet the last sentence in the paragraph states that one researcher made a conclusion. The statement that NPs need preparation for a new scope of practice was not connected to NPs who wanted more education. The statement was made in the context of assuring that NPs understand the effect of legislative changes at the individual level, which is often not clear when rules are necessary to implement the law.

The number of inaccuracies and misrepresentations in this one paragraph reflects the attempts of the AMA to discredit and diminish nurse practitioners and the valuable contributions they make to health care.

Editors Note: There was a separate letter sent to the AMA regarding their monograph that was jointly signed by the following groups. American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program, American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Corporation, American College of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Nurses Association, American Nurses Credentialing Center, American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, Emergency Nurses Association, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, National League for Nursing, National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, National Nursing Centers Consortium, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Oncology Nurses Society, Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, The National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing

Louise Kaplan, PhD, MN, ARNP to be Inducted into the WSNA Hall of Fame

The Washington State Nurses Association's (WSNA) recently announced that Louise Kaplan, PhD, MN, ARNP will receive the WSNA's highest recognition honor, induction into the WSNA Hall of Fame, at an event to be held on March 18, 2010. Louise will receive the honor for her many significant contributions to advancing autonomous advanced nursing practice as well as her many other significant achievements benefiting the entire nursing profession.

WSNA established the biennial WSNA Hall of Fame awards in 1996 to recognize outstanding registered nurses in Washington state, living or deceased, who have made significant lifetime accomplishments to the nursing profession and WSNA. To be honored with this award, inductees must have demonstrated excellence in the areas of patient care, leadership, education, public service, nurse advocacy, heroism, patient advocacy, or clinical practice, and for achievements that have affected the health and/or social history of Washington state and that have added value to nursing beyond the inductee's lifetime.

Louise will be recognized for her many leadership roles in WSNA, including president of her local district, WSNA vice president, board member, Chair of the WSNA-PAC, a two year term as WSNA president and nearly a decade as a member of the Legislative and Health Policy Council. Louise has been an invaluable resource using both her practice and her policy expertise to further WSNA's legislative agendas and in support of the profession's priority legislation. Her contributions include analyzing bills, testifying on behalf of WSNA, serving as the WSNA liaison to the state's Advanced Practice Coalition, and serving as WSNA's representative to select state advisory committees.

Several of Louise's contributions stand out as having a major life-long impact on professional nursing and WSNA. One example is that Louise was responsible for starting Nurse Legislative Day in the early 1980s. This statewide event has grown from 150 participants to more than 700 each year. Louise and her research colleague, Marie-Annette Brown, have spent the last eight years conducting important research on Washington's Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) with a special focus on prescribing controlled substances. In 2005, Louise testified on a bill on behalf of ARNPs by using their research to support elimination of a restrictive requirement for joint practice agreement with a physician to prescribe most federally controlled drugs. Thanks to her research and excellent testimony, the bill successfully passed the Legislature, providing ARNPs with fully autonomous practice. This intersection between research, service and practice exemplifies the

ideal way in which nursing research can make a difference to the profession.

The WSNA Hall of Fame Awards Reception will be held in Seattle on March 18, 2010 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Salty's on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave. SW, Seattle WA. Others to be honored along with Louise are: Mary Bartholet, MS, RN; Anna Mae Erickson, RN; Verna Hill, MN, RN; Margaret Ouchi, MN, RN and Thelma Peges, MN, RN. The event will include a sit-down dinner and cash bar. Registration forms are available in the Winter issue of the Washington Nurse or by calling WSNA at 206.575.7979 or from the WSNA website at www.wsna.org/hall-of-fame/

Classified Ads

Full-Time ARNP – Tacoma, WA

MultiCare Health System is searching for a full-time ARNP and/or PA-C to work with our gynecologic oncologist providing pre and post-operative care, rounding on patients in the hospital and providing first assist in surgery. The MultiCare Regional Cancer Center is a network affiliate of the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. The practice is conveniently located on the main campus of our 391-bed tertiary care center with a 43 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. Excellent compensation, a full array of benefits, and a great location make for an exciting opportunity. Please visit our website to apply online at www.blazenewtrails.org, email your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org or fax your CV to 866.264.2818. Please refer to opportunity 5802 when responding.

Pulmonary ARNP – Tacoma, WA

MultiCare Health System seeks certified experienced pulmonary ARNP to join an established pulmonary/critical care practice. This is a full-time outpatient position located in Tacoma, WA. Competitive 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. Please visit our website to apply online at <http://blazenewtrails.org/>, email your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org or fax your CV to 866-264-2818. Please refer to opportunity #6249 when responding. "MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace"

Nurse Practitioner or ARNP, Full or Part-time Seattle, WA

Family or acute care with pediatric certification. Seattle-based Carena, Inc. (www.CarenaMD.com) is looking for experienced Nurse Practitioners who will deliver telephonic assessment and in-home health care for patients of all ages (including pediatrics). Carena medical group providers specialize in patient-focused, comprehensive health care delivered at a consumer-identified time of need. Unhurried, on-site visits from the Carena providers create an environment for highly personalized care, wellness education, and referrals to other resources provided by the patient's employer or plan. The Nurse Practitioner must have a minimum of 3 years family practice experience, and urgent care/emergency experience is a plus. Carena provides excellent benefits and a competitive salary based on experience. Work hours will include evenings and weekends. If you think you have the ambition, background, and problem-solving skills needed to join our dynamic team, please forward your resume and cover letter to Employment@CarenaMD.com.

All final candidates will undergo a thorough reference check, verification of past employment, and a background check. Carena is an EOE and strongly supports diversity in the workplace.

Urology ARNP – Western WA

Multi-specialty group seeking certified nurse practitioner to join a thriving Urology practice. Primary responsibilities include treating and managing patients in an outpatient clinic setting. Previous urology or other surgical experience is highly desirable. You will enjoy excellent compensation, benefits, and system-wide support, while practicing your own patient care values. Located 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. Please visit our website to apply online at <http://blazenewtrails.org/>, email your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org or fax your CV to 866-264-2818. "Multicare Health System is a Drug Free Workplace"

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Southwest WA

Mary Bridge Children's Hospital seeks a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with urgent care, emergency medicine, or inpatient and outpatient experience to provide care in our Pediatric Intermediate Short Stay Unit located within our brand new hospital expansion pavilion. Applicants must be flexible, self-motivated and committed to providing quality care. Excellent pediatric nursing and support staff, and access to the resources and expertise of pediatric subspecialists keep you better connected. As a MultiCare employee, you will enjoy excellent compensation, benefits and system-wide support, as well as a rewarding and fulfilling career with opportunity for personal growth and advancement. Experience the best of Northwest living, from big-city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. Please visit our website to apply online at <http://blazenewtrails.org/>, email your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org, or fax it to 866-264-2818. For more information, contact MultiCare Provider Services at 800-621-0301. Refer to Opportunity #6650. Multicare is a drug free workplace.

Part-time ARNP – Buckley, WA

Seeking part-time ARNP to join family practice as a contractor, no overhead expenses, in Buckley, WA. Our staff is dedicated to serving the community, including insured and uninsured patients. Our work environment is a place where grace is spoken and growth is encouraged. For more information, please contact Terri Rennaker, Office Manager at 360-829-9701. You may also submit your resume to terri@hopefamilymedicine.org.

Nurse Practitioners Wanted Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest

Join our talented & dedicated medical team!

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

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Western WA opportunities:

FT Puyallup (M-F)

PT Centralia (M,W,F)

Please apply at: www.ppgnw.org/jobs Questions? jobs@ppgnw.org

Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Western WA

MultiCare Health System is seeking a full-time Pediatric Nurse Practitioner to become an integral member of a well-established primary care pediatric group of 5 physicians located within a large multi-specialty clinic in a thriving city with a vibrant sense of community.

Qualified applicants must be flexible, self-motivated, and committed to providing quality care. As a MultiCare employee, you will enjoy excellent compensation, benefits and system-wide support, as well as a rewarding career with opportunity for personal growth and advancement. Experience the best of Northwest living, from big-city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors.

Please visit our website to apply online at <http://blazenewtrails.org/>, or email your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. For more information, contact Provider Services at 800-621-0301. Please reference opportunity #6384 when responding. MultiCare is a drug free workplace.

Family Nurse Practitioner – Burlington, WA

Family Nurse Practitioner position. 1-2 days/ week at an urgent care clinic in Burlington. \$44/hour. Please send resume or inquiries to clearcourt@hotmail.com.

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Meetings

Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners Association

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. Meetings will be Nov/Jan/Mar/May always on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00 at FamilyCare of Kent in Kent, WA. Next meeting Thursday Mar 11, 2010. RSVP at least 48h in advance to mwiley@familycareofkent.com so we can order food and drinks. Address and directions on www.familycareofkent.com.

Healthy Humor

An exhausted-looking man dragged himself in to the Nurse Practitioners office.

"There are dogs all over my neighborhood. They bark all day and all night, and I can't get a wink of sleep."

"I have good news for you," the Nurse Practitioner answered, rum-

maging through a drawer of sample medications. "Here are some new sleeping pills that work like a dream. A few of these and your trouble will be over."

A few weeks later the man returned, looking worse than ever.

"Your plan is no good. I'm more tired than before."

"I don't understand how that could be," said the Nurse Practitioner, shaking his head. "Those are the strongest pills on the market."

"That may be true," the man answered wearily, "but I'm up all night chasing those dogs, and when I finally catch one it's hell getting him to swallow the pill!"

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