

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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November 2012

Thank you!!

American College of Nurse Midwives WA Affiliate

Thank you for your generous \$2,500 yearly donation to ARNPs United. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

AUWS BOD for 2013

Afton Williamson, Ashley Fedan, Chris Porter, Cindy Jensen, Julie Che, Louise Kaplan, Maddy Wiley, Nancy Lawton, Sarah Korkowski, Stephanie Nesser and William Miller will comprise the ARNPs United of Washington State Board of Directors for 2013.

Call to Action!

Urge "Lame Duck" Congress to Pass Home Health Bill

from ACNP

Congress is returning November 13 for a short post-election "lame duck" session to deal with a long list of critical issues including deficit reduction and pending deep cuts in Medicare payments. Legislation to enable nurse practitioners to authorize Medicare home health services should be part of these negotiations - but it could be overlooked unless we make our voices heard now!

Contact your Senators and Representatives **NOW!** Urge them to ask their leaders to include the provisions of the "Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act" (H.R. 2267/S. 227) in any Medicare or budget legislation to be passed before the end of the year.

Currently, nurse practitioners are not able to certify Medicare beneficiaries' eligibility for home health care services despite the fact that physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives are recognized Medicare providers. H.R. 2267/S. 227, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011, as introduced by Representatives Greg Walden and Allyson Schwartz in the House of Representatives and Senators Susan Collins and Kent Conrad in the Senate, recognizes and authorizes nurse practitioners as eligible health care professionals who can certify home health services under Medicare, ensuring that Medicare patients requiring these services receive optimal continuity of care.

We need co-sponsors and members who haven't co-sponsored the bill to tell their leaders they want to vote on these provisions this year as part of the year-end Medicare and budget agreements.

Have your legislators co-sponsored the bill? It's particularly important to contact members of Congress who already support this legislation to thank them and ask them to push their leadership to pass the bill before the end of the year. To find out if your legislators are co-sponsors:

Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and type "Home Health Care Improvement Act" in the search box provided.

To see if your Representative is a co-sponsor of H.R. 2267, click on the "Co-sponsors" link under that bill.

To find out if your Senators are co-sponsors of S. 227, click on the "Co-sponsors" link under that bill.

Contact your Senators and Representatives. As a constituent, you can explain to your members of Congress and their staffers what a "nurse practitioner" is, describe your practice, and explain how this legislation will help you and other NPs ensure that patients with Medicare coverage get the home health services they need in a timely manner. Your experiences and perspective are critical to making your legislators understand how passage of this legislation will help their constituents and improve health care in the communities they represent in Congress.

As a nurse practitioner providing health care services to your constituents, I am writing/calling about H.R. 2267/ S. 227, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011. I'm asking (you/Senator/Representative _____) to urge your leadership to include this legislation in any Medicare or budget legislation you act on during the "lame duck" session.

Medicare's current policy compromises my ability to provide appropriate care for my patients because Medicare conditions of participation allow home health care agencies to accept referrals and certifications from physicians, but not other primary care providers such as nurse practitioners. Even though I can provide all other aspects of care for that patient leading up to and after the referrals and certifications for home health services have been established. This restriction makes it necessary to involve another provider who may not be aware of the patient or their current condition.

Nurse practitioners have a long history of providing high quality, cost effective care to patients of all ages. We are particularly prepared to manage the problems of patients with chronic diseases and the elderly, and should

be able to make referrals for these services for our Medicare patients.

[Insert personal story here: (i.e. I live in a rural area and don't have access to a physician to sign off on my order. / I have my own practice and don't have a relationship with a physician. / I have a patient who was not able to get the services she needed because of this law.)]

This legislation can make an important contribution to current efforts in Congress to reduce the federal budget deficit and make the Medicare program more cost-effective. An independent study found that Medicare could save nearly \$310 million over ten years by authorizing NPs to order home health services. But the main benefit will be improving health care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Please help me give my patients who need home health care the access to the Medicare services they require. Urge your leaders to act on this important legislation before the end of the year as part of any Medicare or budget agreement. Speak up now to help us improve health care for Medicare patients.

Thank you,

TAKE ACTION! Both chambers of Congress will reconvene on Tuesday, November 13 with less than six weeks to complete action on critical budget and Medicare legislation. It is critically important for us to demonstrate to Senate and House leadership that support for this bill is so strong that it must be included in the final year-end legislation.

Contact your Representative and Senators as soon - and as frequently - as possible, either by phone or email, and urge them to ask their leadership to include the provisions of the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act (H.R. 2267/ S. 227) in any final Medicare or budget agreement. If possible, follow up with your Representatives and Senators frequently during the "lame duck" session and ask if they've talked with their leadership about the bill - members of Congress will have to be constantly reminded that this issue must be passed.

You can also send an email message to your legislators - although different offices handle general email from constituents differently. If you have an email address for a staffer who works for your legislator, it's best to send your message to that individual.

If you prefer to use email, you can use the Advocacy Center on the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners' (AANP) website. Direct your web browser to: <http://www.capwiz.com/aanp/issues/?style=D&> and click on the appropriate link to send a message on either the House or the Senate version of the "Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act."

Follow up frequently. The "lame duck" session will be short and hectic, with a huge number of constituents and special interests competing to get their messages heard - one phone call or email message to your legislators simply won't be enough. They need to hear from as many of their constituents as possible as often as possible how important this legislation is.

CMS Issues Final Rules on 2013 Medicare Portable X-rays, Medicaid Payments

Nurse practitioners will clearly be authorized to order Medicare portable x-ray services under final regulations released November 1 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The agency also released a separate regulation enabling NPs to bill for and receive higher payments for Medicaid primary care services, but only if those services are provided under the supervision of a physician. Both rules are posted on the Federal Register public inspection website at <http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx> and will be published later this month.

Acting on concerns raised by ACNP and other nursing organizations, CMS clarified that Medicare will pay for portable x-ray services ordered by NPs without requiring a physician order as of January 1, 2013, the date when most provisions of the new regulations take effect. The agency said it would continue to seek repayment for previously submitted claims identified by its Office of Inspector General.

The agency also responded to comments from ACNP and other nursing groups that NPs should be eligible to receive payments for Medicaid primary care services in 2013 and 2014 at no less than the rate that Medicare pays. The final rule eliminates a proposal to require that services provided by NPs must be billed under the physician's provider number in order to qualify for the higher payment. However, the rule still limits the Medicaid payment increase to services "provided under the personal supervision of eligible physicians."

The final fee schedule also adopts two transitional care management codes that split transitional care into moderately complex and highly complex care. The rule also authorizes Medicare direct reimbursement of certified registered nurse anesthetists for chronic pain management services and allows them to furnish all services within the CRNA scope of practice in a state where the services are provided.

Eastside NP Group and PSNPA Merge

It is a pleasure to announce the merging of the Eastside Nurse Practitioner Group and Puget Sound Nurse Practitioner Association. The goal of bringing these two groups together is to increase support and comradery

among Nurse Practitioners in the Northwest in a unified front.

The mission of the group is to:

- ☑ Promote the Nurse Practitioner Role
- ☑ Facilitating Practice Development and Continuing Education
- ☑ Providing Networking Opportunities

For any questions or concerns please contact: Stephany Nesser ARNP, FNP at stephany_nesser@yahoo.com
Please visit Puget Sound Nurse Practitioner Association at: <http://www.psnpa.org/>

Health Affairs: Issue Brief

Health Affairs, a leading national journal on health policy, provides a concise and clear policy brief on nurse practitioners and the state scope of practice issue. This is a **must read** and **share** for all NPs as we communicate with our policy makers. "This brief examines the policy proposals for allowing nurse practitioners to practice to their full potential." Download and share it today...

http://www.healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs/brief.php?brief_id=79

Classified Ads

2 ARNPs Wanted- Western WA

ARNP wanted for 30 hours per week Tuesday to Friday in a North Seattle Wound Care Center. Another ARNP wanted Monday morning and all day Thursday in a Wound Care Center in Arlington, 50 miles north of Seattle. Both Wound Care Centers are well established outpatient programs with excellent reputations of healing chronic wounds. Be a wound care specialist and part of a team with many disciplines. Experience as an ARNP required, but will train for wound care. Also option to buy this successful practice of 13 years that provides ARNP's to wound care clinics. Email olympicarnp@gmail.com or call 425-275-7629.

ARNP or PA-C Wanted- Brewster WA

Wenatchee Valley Medical Center is seeking an ARNP or PA-C for primary care in our newest clinic in Brewster to join our full-time physician and part-time ARNP.

Work part-time or full-time - we welcome applicants seeking either. Spanish language skills required. Outpatient practice only; no call.

Brewster is a small, dynamic community along the Columbia River halfway between WVMC's largest campus in Wenatchee and our Omak Clinic. Truly appreciative and loyal patients make for rewarding days. Largely agriculture-based economy with beautiful landscapes and sunshine. Send CV to Peter Rutherford, MD at JoinUs@wvmedical.com. Learn more at www.wvmedical.com

3 ARNPs/PAs Wanted- Eastern WA

Wenatchee Valley Medical Center is seeking three full-time ARNPs/PAs for combination roles within full-scope primary care clinic. Duties will include Occupational Medicine, Walk In Clinic, Family Medicine, Chronic Pain Medicine.

Join our strong existing team to serve solid patient base with a variety of needs. Our goal is to cross-train all advance practice clinicians to cover for each other and share in the scope of medicine to best serve patients. Passion for a generalist role with variety of break things up and desire to truly connect with patients required. Experience in L&I evaluations and regulations preferred, but will train.

Excellent support from family practitioners and visiting specialists. Shared EMR.

Rural paradise in Washington's largest county with friendly small towns and diverse scenery.

If you think this is for you, please send your CV to JoinUs@wvmedical.com. Learn more at www.wvmedical.com

CE Opportunities

UW Health Care and Social Work Certificates

Advance your skills, expand your network or earn contact hours and CEUs. UW Professional & Continuing Education offers the following certificate programs: Gerontology (online), Geriatric Mental Health (classroom), Medical Management (classroom), Psychological Trauma: Effective Treatment and Practice (online & classroom), Integrated Behavioral Health (online), and Infant Mental Health (classroom). Visit our website for full descriptions and start dates: www.keeplearning.uw.edu.

Pediatric Obesity Prevention in Primary Care FREE 1 hr AANP CE Opportunity:

Please allow me to invite you to complete an online CE program about: Pediatric Obesity Prevention in Primary Care

The program will take an hour or less, and has a research component/survey, so your participation is highly valued!

To access the program, please access the following link:

www.unco.edu/nhs/nines/HesslerCEforWeb2011/HesslerCEforWeb2011.html

Multiple Sclerosis Symptom Management: A Complete Approach to Care

November 15, 2012 • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • Daniel's Broiler, 809 Fairview Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98109

Presenting will be Bobbie Severson, ARNP, an experienced member of the care team at the Swedish MS Center. RSVP to Kimia Talajour 206.588.9098 kimia.talajour@tevapharm.com

Service Ads

Seattle University NP Students Need Preceptors

Winter Qtr 1/7-3/20/13, 2 days/week

Spring Qtr 4/1-6/10/13, 2 days/week

Fabulous preceptors are ARNPs, MDs, PAs in: Family, Geriatrics, Psychiatrics, Pediatrics, Midwifery, Women's health, Urgent Care, Specialty (eg; cardio, neuro, etc) Please contact Elly Detweiler at: 206-398-2098 or detwelle@seattleu.edu

Guiding the Future... Love to teach...

Precept an FNP, ANP or PNP student!

Precepting involves 1 to 2 days a week for the 10-week quarter, Fall, Winter and/or Spring.

Preceptors needed for beginning to advanced students.

Contact Fiona Shannon, fiona@uw.edu for more information on precepting University of Washington students.

Interested in Mentoring the Next Generation of ARNPs?

Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA is looking for preceptors in the south Puget Sound area for the Family Nurse Practitioner program. Your commitment requires a minimum of 1 day a week for a semester. We need preceptors Fall (Sep to Dec), Spring (Feb to May) and Summer (May to August) semesters. If interested, please contact Dr. Lorena Guerrero at guerrelc@plu.edu or call (253) 535-7374.

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 speaker presentation.

Annual dues are \$40/\$20 for students. \$20 per meeting for guests. Apply for membership and find meeting information at <http://PSNPA.org>

Private Practice NP Discussion Group

All are welcome. Meetings will be Sep/Nov/Jan/Mar/May on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00 at FamilyCare of Kent in Kent, WA. RSVP at least 48hr in advance to mwiley@familycareofkent.com so we can order food and drinks. Address and directions on www.familycareofkent.com. Sponsored by NP Central.

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.

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 and Continuing Education Ads of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75, 131-180 words are \$105, and greater than 181 words are \$175. 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, more than 130 words are \$175. Ad Inserts are \$750 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, #230, Kent, WA 98031. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.852.7725. Email care@nurse.net.

ARNPs United of WA State

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Ad rate sheet available on request.

Photograph of the Month



Photo by Bob Smithing

This elk is bugling his support for passing the Home Health Bill. Join him by calling your Congress members today!
See story page 1.