



The Advocate

NURSE PRACTITIONERS OF NEW YORK

WWW.NPNY.NET

WINTER/SPRING 2012

From the President's Desk...



Happy 2012 and may the New Year bring you happiness, health, and prosperity! President-Elect Juliette Blount and I are excited to present new changes to enhance our presence on popular social media, such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

NPNY WEB SITE

We are in the process of updating our web site (www.npny.net) including our mission statement, history of NPNY, list of upcoming and past CE programs, and photographs of our recent events.

NPNY FACEBOOK PAGE

Our brand new Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/nursepractitionersofnewyork) will provide a more professional presence and more security controls than our current Facebook Group, which will be removed when the transition is complete. As of January 1, our Facebook Page has been published and is available for public viewing and searching. Visitors can "Like" our page and follow us on Facebook for the latest news and announcements.

NPNY ONLINE APPLICATION

New and current members can now be linked to PayPal and a secure online application form directly from our NPNY web site. This will provide a secure and seamless way to join and renew membership. We understand that some members may have some concerns about using PayPal

as the provider of our online membership payment service, but I assure you that we are doing everything we can to make it a safe and secure transaction. There is always the option of printing the paper application form in PDF format and mailing in a check to our organization. We are also open to suggestions for any other suitable payment provider.

NPNY LINKEDIN GROUP

All paid members were sent an email invitation to join our LinkedIn Group (www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=3720268&trk=anet Ug Grppro) to receive announcements and job postings. Because LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking site used primarily by professionals, we have decided to use our LinkedIn Group to communicate with our membership. Our Yahoo Group will be slowly phased out. In addition, we will be sending PDF copies of the monthly CE presentation slides via the group—a perk provided only to members. Using this group, we are also able to attach documents to postings and to send out announcements to the entire membership instead of individual emails.

On behalf of the entire organization, I would like to express our gratitude to our webmaster Veronica Zaragovia for her help with this project. I look forward to a great year and more things to come in 2012. Stay tuned!

—Wendy Kong, MS, FNP-BC

Networking at the AANP Regional Leadership Conference

Professional practice issues at the national and state level were discussed at the Annual Region 1 and 2 Leadership Meeting of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) on September 30, 2011. Two NPNY members attended: Jacqui Varela and I. Our NY State members announced that a new law allows State nurse practitioners to sign death certificates as of January 16, 2012. This accomplishment demonstrates the powerful effect of educating our legislators on what we do.

PRACTICE TO THE FULL EXTENT

That being said, we need to work hard to get more legislators to sponsor bills that permit NPs to practice to the full extent of their education and training. We congratulate the 15 states that have independent practice. Unfortunately NY, and many other states, still require physician collaboration.

The AANP has requested an amendment that will add NPs to the list of providers for the Workers Compensation Program. Although we are reimbursable providers in the Federal Employees Health Insurance Program, we are not authorized in the compensation program; and under the Federal Employee's Compensation Act reimbursement authorization for services rendered does not include NPs as covered providers.

In spite of the fact that we are able to provide and bill for services rendered under Medicare part B, NPs are unable to refer patients for home health care. AANP requested legislation or reinterpretation of a statute that will authorize home health agencies to accept orders from NPs. Members should send letters to legislators requesting that they co-sponsor the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011.

WE ARE NOT FINISHED

The Medical Home, part of the health reform law, will "meet increasing needs, provide access to health care and manage chronic care more effectively." This model epitomizes the NP model of care: "a personal provider who focuses on the whole person, provides coordinated and integrated care that is high quality and safe."

As our senior NPs can attest, many years of working to educate legislators have had a significant impact on the role of NPs; we are grateful for past and continued efforts. However, we're not finished yet. Your voice counts, so make it a priority to get at least one legislator to co-sponsor a bill. Together we can do it! —Kenya Beard ANP

A Toast to 2012



From left to right, Jacqueline Varela, board member; Helene Ince; and Wendy Kong, current president, celebrate the season and wish everybody a happy new year.

Latest News from AANP...

The US House of Representatives approved bipartisan legislation in November aimed at enhancing the Workers' Compensation Program for federal employees *only*, including authorizing NPs, other advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants to certify disability for traumatic injuries during an employee's initial treatment period. Congressman John Kline (R-MN), Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee and sponsor of the "Federal Workers' Compensation Modernization and Improvement Act" (H.R. 2465), called the bill "a first step toward modernizing the Federal Employees' Compensation Act," adding that workers in rural areas often have limited access to medical care and the medical professionals can certify a worker's disability.

The House bill goes to the Senate, where the outlook for action is unclear.

NPNY CALENDAR: EARN 2 CES FOR EACH PROGRAM

Earn 2 CEs for each program. These program CEs have been submitted to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for continuing education credits. *Jordana Cotton, NP, is Chair of the Program Committee.*

◆ THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012

Topic: Career Development and Social Media

Speaker: Shari Sambursky, CCMC-
Job Search Coach/Certified Career
Management Coach

◆ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Topic: Health Care Policy Update

Speakers: Helen Ruddy, NP and
Rachael Lerner, WHNP-BC – NPNY
Legislative Committee

◆ THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

Topic: Domestic Violence

Speaker: Rita Williams, FNP- BC

◆ THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012

Topic: Treatment of Scoliosis and
Common Causes of Low Back Pain

Speaker: Nicola Hawkinson, DNP, RN

◆ THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012

Topic: Evidence-based Contraception
and Dispelling Myths about IUDs

Speaker: Erin Hendriks, MD

SCHEDULE FOR ALL PROGRAMS:

6 - 6:30 pm Networking & light dinner

6:30 - 7 pm News & announcements

7 - 8:30 pm Program

LOCATION: CE meetings take place at
Beth Israel PACC (Phillips Ambulatory Care
Center), in Conference Room #1, located at
10 Union Square East.

SUBWAY: Union Square station on the
L, N, Q, R, W, 4, 5, 6.

NP Perspective on Being a Patient

We've all heard the saying: if you have your health nothing else matters. For over 30 years working as a Nurse Practitioner and health care provider, I have tried to appreciate what it is like to be a patient. Well, having become "a patient" for the past six months, I now have a "real" appreciation of what it feels like — and it is daunting and difficult!

MY SICK TIME RAN OUT

I have supported myself since I was 19, but one day I fell and sustained very serious injuries to my dominant arm. My sick time ran out, and I came to realize why we all need to have a clear idea of what would happen to us financially and with regard to access to health care if we find ourselves unable to work.

Although I've been laid off and changed jobs in the past, to be unemployed with no idea of when you will have a paying job again is different. I thought about what it must be like for the 13.3 million people in this country who are unemployed (and the many other people, like me, not included in that statistic).

This is not meant to be a sob story, not that I haven't done a lot of sobbing, but it's intended to be a "heads up" to my friends and colleagues.

◆ Find out what your disability insurance from work really provides. If it is as inadequate as most are, think about getting supplemental disability insurance.

◆ Our current "health care system" is not a system. Its "cracks" are veritable canyons; and this is from the perspective of a patient who knows something about how to negotiate the system and has connections and "good health insurance."

◆ "Good health insurance," or having any at all, is mostly dependent on having a job. But even good health insurance doesn't cover everything, and it is very complicated trying to figure out what you are responsible for.

◆ Health Care Reform, whatever your politics, is everyone's problem, and urgent. Thankfully, I will be functional and able to return to work soon. But millions of our fellow Americans are still in dire straights. So I encourage all to be involved and to advocate for the NP model of coordinated patient-centered care. And be politically active; for example, there is a bill in NY (A.8116/ S.5839) to set up a health insurance exchange, as required by the Federal Affordable Care Act, that would allow individuals and small businesses to shop for more affordable insurance.

Remember this is not someone else's problem. It is our problem.

—Helen Ruddy, NP

NPs Can Sign Death Certificates: Prepare Yourself Well

On January 16, 2012, the new law allowing NPs to sign death certificates takes effect. To find out how to fill out death certificates, go to the CDC web site and type in the right top search space: Writing Cause of Death Statements. You'll find specific instructions as well as a handbook online.

The NYC Dept. of Health has a video, which covers the importance of cause of death, gives you practice filling out certificates, tells you when to refer to the Medical Examiner with case studies, covers emergency situations, and even offers a CME. Use this link—<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/media/video/icdr/>.

Nurse Practitioners of New York

Board of Directors: *Officers*

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wendykongvan@gmail.com

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juliette.blount@yahoo.com

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smoscou@mercy.edu

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krystimcnichol@yahoo.com

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Kenya Beard - kvmbeard@aol.com

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Rachael Lerner - rachael.lerner@gmail.com

Lisa Paplanus - Lisa.paplanus@nyumc.org

Jacqueline Varela -

jacqueline.varela@nyumc.org

Newsletter Editor: Betsy Kissam

bkissam@mindspring.com

NPNY board members meet each summer to plan for the coming year.



Governor Cuomo's Task Force Endorses Independent Practice For NPs

On December 31, the Task Force on Redesigning the Medicaid Program submitted its final recommendations to Governor Andrew Cuomo. Medicaid costs the State \$53 billion a year, partially shared by counties and cities and is almost 50% of the State budget. The Task Force looked at ways to curb costs and long-term measures to improve efficiency and quality of care.

The Task Force split into 10 working groups, one being the Workforce Flexibility/ Scope of Practice group, which examined the nursing profession among

others. Its 4th priority recommendation states: "Remove the requirement that certified Nurse Practitioners enter into a written collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician (as per Assembly 5308/Senate 3289)."

Benefits, according to the recommendation, are that "eliminating this barrier will increase access to quality health care for Medicaid recipients, while reducing costs to the system."

Let the Governor know we agree with this recommendation and urge him to act on the recommendation of his Task Force.