



APN Council NEWSLETTER

Arkansas Nurses Association
Advanced Practice Nurses Council
www.arna.org

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Issue 2

Regulation 30 Update Draft Two....Second Verse

Regulation 30, draft two, was released by the Arkansas Board of Medicine in June 2008. In common with the previous March draft, the proposed regulation outlines several new requirements for practice by physicians and advanced practice nurses who have elected to form a collaborative practice of health care in Arkansas. Once again, the proposed regulation **limits access to care** and **increases bureaucratic oversight** not currently required by Arkansas law (1995). None of the new requirements are based on evidence of threats to patient safety. All will pose unnecessary expense of time, money, resources and governmental oversight for care that has already been well received by Arkansans.

Some of the new limitations to practice include:

- requirements for Arkansas licensed physicians to practice in Arkansas. This will limit collaboration in cities that border with other states such as Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Missouri;
- a new form notifying the Medical Board of practice arrangements. It is unclear what purpose a new form, which has yet to be defined, will serve;
- collaborative practice agreements that must be reviewed and signed annually regardless of whether or not they have changed;
- a document that requires extensive information on the *extent of practice, procedures, functions, indications and protocols of practice* between the APN and physician. Protocols of practice have in the past been structured to reflect the unique patient population and the professional needs of the providers. The incredible time required to create and maintain a current version of such a document is not time well spent.

Arkansas Medical Board wants to require physicians to spend further time:

- reviewing at least 10% of the APN's medical practice charts annually;
- ensuring that the APN distributes to each patient, written documentation as to who the collaborating physician is and how he may be reached and or contacted.

Draft Two of Regulation 30 goes on to instruct physicians that they should meet face to face with APNs to establish their relationship and thereafter when the physician judges it necessary. The lack of indication for these meetings reflects the overall lack of indication for the regulation in general.

There is no mistaking the repeated attempts by the Arkansas Medical Board to place limitations on the practice of excellent physicians and advanced practice nurses who have chosen them as their providers. In **1984** the Arkansas State Medical Board (ASMB) proposed **Regulation 10** which would, among other things, restrict a physician from employing or assuming responsibility for, or directing the activities of more than two Registered Practitioners (RNP's) at any one time. Violations would be declared "malpractice." Again, in **1993**, the ASMB put forth **Regulation 15**, which would limit the number of RNP's at physician could employ to two, required supervision of practice, and declared violation of the regulation to be malpractice for physicians. Subsequent to the adoption

of these regulations, in both cases, the Arkansas State Supreme Court invalidated them.

Now, more than ever before, consumers (patients, families and industries) that

look to us for care need to know that there is no evidence this regulation is needed. National studies, which examine care by Advanced Practice Nurses (Clinical Specialists, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Anesthetists, and Midwives), overwhelmingly indicate that our care is safe, effective and well received by patients for over 35 years. Arkansas is ranked 48th by the 2007 National Scorecard on Health Status. Of particular importance as our population ages is the fact that Arkansas ranks last in the number of adults ages 50 or older who received recommended primary care and preventive screening.

Our message today: this is not the time to limit care. **Arkansas Nurses** stand ready to work with all clinicians to meet the health challenges affecting individuals and the economic impact affecting businesses.

Susan Patton, APN, DNSc

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Health Policy Committee News

ARNA Health Policy Committee has monthly meetings to discuss public health issues in Arkansas and how nurses can better serve their patients, public health needs, and their profession. There are four major strategic planning issues for 2007-2009:

1. Plan and execute a Nurses Day at the State Capitol; to be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Please contact Veronica Clark, at arna@arna.org if you would like to participate.
2. Increase access to health care for all Arkansans.
3. Address policy issues and challenges facing nurses. These include the shortage of nurses and nursing teachers in Arkansas; inclusion of nurses in legislation related to public health; reimbursement and scope of practice issues; and participation in addressing general public health needs in Arkansas.
4. Increase effectiveness and visibility of ARNA in legislative and administrative policy decision making through increased organizational membership and financial growth and stability.

If you are interested in serving on any of the sub-committees working on these issues or would like to take an active role in the activities of the Health Policy Committee, please contact Veronica, at arna@arna.org to put your name on the ARNA Health Policy Committee membership list.

LACE CONSENSUS MODEL FOR APRNs

The APRN Consensus Work Group and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing APRN Advisory Committee have developed a consensus model for regulation of APRNs across the nation. The new LACE model (Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education) in its entirety can be viewed at nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/APRNs.aspx

IMPORTANT DATES:

August 7, 2008, Regulation 30; ARNA and ASBN to testify

October 23rd-25th, annual conference with ARNA, to include APN topics, see arna.org for registration information.

Message from APN Council Chair

Just a reminder, the APN council continues to hold monthly conference calls to address all APN issues. Next Call is August 5, at 6PM. Please contact Julie Thibodaux, jthibodaux@sbcglobal.net for conference call number.

Please forward your contact information to the ARNA office so that you will be included in mailings and email updates. Thanks, we look forward to hearing from you. Marilou Doffin, APN, CPNP

Health Policy Committee News

Darlene Byrd, APN and Susan Patton, DNP have developed a program "The Right to Petition Our Government" They are willing to present this program at all district meetings regarding participation in the legislative process, both locally and at the Capitol. We need your voices and your muscle to insure that all our legislators know the vital role that nurses play in providing affordable, accessible health care to all Arkansans. Contact Darlene Byrd dbyrd@futura.net to schedule.

Our next meeting is set for Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the ARNA office in Little Rock; you can participate by conference call. We would love to have you attend. As the co-chairs of the ARNA Health Policy Committee, we are honored to represent and work with and for members of our profession. Please don't hesitate to contact the ARNA office with any comments or suggestions you may have to make our work and our organization better.

*Linda McIntosh, APN, FNP and
Margo Bushmaier, MNSc, RN, NCSN*

ARNA Convention to be held in Rogers, AR on October 23rd - 25th.

Continuing Education Units, political insights, new information on health trends and national activities, plus the value of networking and camaraderie of nurses make this an event one that you shouldn't miss. The APN planning committee members have developed a special education track for APNs. Mark your calendars and register now! You may register at arna.org, or look for registration information in the upcoming issue of the Arkansas Nursing News.

Pre-Convention Workshop - Thursday, October 23rd 3:30- 5:30pm in Embassy Suites Rogers, AR.

A Thursday afternoon workshop has been planned for APNs titled, "Diagnosis and Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension". The presenter is Mae Centeno, MS, RN, CCRN, CCNS, ACNS-BC, Program Manager -CNS, Baylor Heart And Pulmonary Hypertension Program, Dallas, TX

APN Nurse of the Year Award:

Please begin now to think about who you would like to nominate for the APN Nurse of the Year Award that is presented each year at the ARNA Annual Convention. Nominations are due into the office by September 20, 2008. Go to www.arna.org for nominations form.

If you have any ideas for topics for our newsletter, please contact Julie Thibodaux, newsletter editor, at jthibodaux@sbcglobal.net.

Julie Thibodaux, APN, CPNP