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**Greetings from the Executive Director**

Cheryl Koski, MN, RN

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## Notice of Board Vacancies

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing will have three (3) vacancies occurring February 28, 2006. All three of the vacancies are for a three year term. Board Members are appointed by the Governor and must meet the statutory and eligibility requirements for each specific vacancy in order to serve.

Members appointed may be re-appointed to serve an additional three year term. Board Members appointed to fill an unexpired term may be re-appointed to serve two additional consecutive three year terms. Membership on the Board is restricted to no more than one person who is associated with a particular agency, educational institution, corporation or other enterprise or subsidiary at one time.

Complete statutes detailing the qualifying requirements for membership on the Board of Nursing can be found at http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.htm or at the Board of Nursing website at http://nursing.state.wy.us. The Governor is very interested in giving as many citizens as possible the opportunity to participate on Boards and Commissions. Geographic diversity is a priority with the Governor.

The following positions are vacant on the Board of Nursing:

1) Registered Nurse – the RN positions must be a resident of the state, licensed in good standing, currently engaged in the practice of registered nursing with no less than five years experience in this position, at least three of which immediately precede appointment. This applicant shall have at least two years of experience in an administrative or teaching position in a nursing education program.

2) Advanced Practice Registered Nurse –
SCOPE OF PRACTICE ISSUES
Mary E. Calkins, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Executive Director and Practice and Education Consultant

As Practice and Education Consultant I answer many scope of practice questions. When there is a practice issue that is not clearly defined by previous Board opinions, I conduct research for the Board Practice Committee.

Once all the information from the research is gathered, it is sent to the Practice Committee for their review. The Practice Committee then makes a recommendation to the Board for an Advisory Opinion.

All of the Board’s Advisory Opinions are listed on the Board’s web site at http://nursing.state.wy.us. Go to Publications and Opinions. If you wish to request an Advisory Opinion, you may fill out a request (see web site under “forms”) and send to:
Practice and Education Consultant
2020 Carey Ave. Ste. 110
Cheyenne, WY 82002
e-mail: mcalks@state.wy.us

The following are practice questions that the Board issued an Advisory Opinion at the October 10-14, 2005 Board Meeting:

ADMINISTRATION OF RHO GAM–LPNS  Advisory Opinion Number: 03-123
The Practice Committee recommends to the Board to revise Section IV of Advisory Opinion 03-123 IV Therapy by LPNs to read as follows:
IV. ACLS:
The Licensed Practical Nurse must practice within the scope of practice for a licensed practical nurse. The LPN can not assess (contributes to the assessment), intubate, push or bolus any IV medication.
The Board voted to accept the recommendation of the Practice Committee that LPNs must practice within their scope of practice if ACLS certified.

PCA BY PROXY–RN & LPN  Advisory Opinion Number: 05-152
The Practice Committee reviewed a written request from Kathy Kumer, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing at Castle Rock Convalescent Center in Green River, Wyoming, requesting an Advisory Opinion if it is within the scope of practice of the licensed practical nurse to administer pain medication by proxy by a PCA pump and if it is within the scope of practice of the registered professional nurse to administer pain medication by proxy by a PCA pump.

Upon the Practice Committee’s recommendation, the Board voted that it is not within the scope of practice of the licensed practical nurse to administer pain medication via a patient controlled device. The RN must follow institutional policies and procedures in addition to documenting the assessment of the client’s physiological responses as well as the effectiveness of the pain medication.

REMOVAL OF PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CATHETER—RN  Advisory Opinion Number: 05-153
The Practice Committee reviewed a written request from Kathy Green, RN, Vice President of Nursing at United Medical Center in Cheyenne, Wyoming, requesting an Advisory Opinion regarding whether it is within the scope of practice of the registered professional nurse to remove a peritoneal dialysis catheter.

Upon the recommendation of the Practice Committee, the Board voted that it is not within the scope of practice of the registered professional nurse to remove a peritoneal dialysis catheter.

Train-the-Trainer Course–RN  Advisory Opinion Number: 05-154
The Practice Committee reviewed a written request from Mary Calkins, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Executive Director and Practice and Education Consultant for the Wyoming Board of Nursing requesting approval of Train-the-Trainer Course (online) from Mountain Plains Consortium.

Upon the Practice Committee’s recommendation, the Board voted to approve the on-line Train-the-Trainer Course from Mountain Plains Consortium.

Anesthesia Technicians–CNA  Advisory Opinion Number: 05-155
The Practice Committee reviewed a written letter from Cheryl Koski, MN, RN, Executive Director of the Wyoming Board of Nursing to Michael Trenman, PA-C, Director of Perioperative Services at Ivinson Memorial Hospital.

The Board voted to issue an Advisory Opinion stating that it is not within the delegated nursing tasks for a CNA to function as an anesthesia technician including restocking the anesthesia cart with medications and supplies, act as retractor holders during surgical procedures, prepare intravenous lines, and hang irrigation solutions.

Conscious Sedation–RN  Advisory Opinion Number: 05-156
The Practice Committee reviewed a written request from Doreen Peretti, RN at Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County asking if a physician must be present when a registered professional nurse administers ordered conscious sedation.

Upon the recommendation of the Practice Committee, the Board voted that when a registered professional nurse is administering IV conscious sedation, a physician must be physically present. The facility also needs to check with their risk manager and liability carrier.
The Wyoming State Crime Lab is pleased to announce the use of an updated Biological Evidence Kit. This kit is designed to provide a standard procedure for the collection of forensic evidence from both victims and suspects in criminal cases. The Crime Lab staff has worked closely with members of law enforcement, medical, advocacy, and prosecution through the Wyoming Sexual Assault Response Task Force (WySART) to revise the kit and the procedures to match best practices for the highest quality of evidence collection and samples. It is important that agencies understand that they need to attend and receive training on how to collect evidence prior to them actually using the kit.

There are a number of important changes in the new kit. Please take the opportunity to familiarize yourself and your staff with the new kit. Detailed instructions are included for each step of collection.

Some of the changes include:

1) External appearance – the new kit comes packaged in a box rather than a large envelope.

2) Tracking number – each kit includes a white bar code on the outside of the box. Theoretically, every kit that is distributed to an individual agency should be returned to the Crime Lab. The bar coding of the kits will allow the Crime Lab to monitor how many kits were sent out to each agency and how many were returned. We would remind everyone that the only authorized use of the kits is for the collection of forensic biological evidence from victims and/or suspects in criminal cases. The individual components of the kits should not be separated and utilized for any other purpose. In an effort to prevent any agency from being charged for the kits, we would ask that those in charge of acquisition and distribution of the kits to monitor their use closely.

3) Instructions, forms and diagrams – Detailed instructions are included for each step of evidence collection. There is an improved consent form, sexual assault examination report form and several body diagrams included in the kit. Information is also included about the routing of some of the forms to medical personnel, law enforcement, and the patient.

4) Samples – Some of the significant changes in the new kit are: the use of a blood stain card instead of a blood tube, the addition of changing paper to collect debris that might fall during the removal of clothing, new samples of head hair combings and fingernail swabbing, and the elimination of slide mailers. Again, detailed instructions are included for each step of collection.

The Wyoming State Crime Lab has already offered training in seven Wyoming counties: Albany, Laramie, Niobrara, Sweetwater, Teton, and Uinta. Additional training opportunities are being scheduled in Converse, Crook, Fremont, Hot Springs, and Sheridan counties in 2006.

The Crime Lab will be offering training on the use of the new kit in cooperation with WySART and will include information on community response in sexual assault cases, sexual assault response team development, Biological Evidence Kit collection, Evidence Packaging, and sexual assault statute revisions. Attendees will be able to ask questions on the method and reasoning for evidence collection.

The training is critical for emergency room physicians and nurses and members of law enforcement, but will also be extremely useful for prosecutors, sexual assault advocates, and other members of a community sexual assault response team.
the APRN position must be a resident of the state, licensed in good standing, currently engaged in the practice of registered nursing with no less than five years experience as a registered professional nurse, at least three of which immediately preceded appointment. This applicant shall have at least two years experience in advanced practice registered nursing.

3) Consumer – the public representative position must be a resident of the state, has attained the age of majority, is interested in consumer health concerns and shall not be not ever have been licensed or employed as a provider of health care services or be enrolled in any health related educational program.

Persons interested in applying for one of the vacancies on the Board or for an application should contact Patti Burns in the Governor’s Office at 307-777-5647 or visit the Governor’s web site at http://www.state.wy.us/governor. Completed applications must be in to the Governor’s Office one month before the vacancy date (January 28, 2005). Persons may also contact Cheryl Koski at the Board Office at 307-777-6121 or ckoski@state.wy.us for further information regarding these vacancies.

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The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) recently initiated practice analysis studies: one for post entry-level registered nurses (RNs) and one for post entry-level licensed practical and vocational nurses (LPN/VNs). Designed to describe post entry-level nursing practice and delineate the interface between entry-level practice and continued competence in practice, NCSBN convened panels of experts, two for RNs and another for LPN/VNs, to develop nursing activity statements that will be used in the practice analysis questionnaires.

Throughout its 27-year history NCSBN has advanced the position that nurses must remain competent throughout their professional careers. To assist boards of nursing in addressing continued competence, NCSBN is spearheading an initiative to develop an assessment instrument to measure continued competence of RNs and LPN/VNs. This past summer NCSBN convened the panels of RN and LPN/VN subject matter experts who were drawn from a wide spectrum of nursing organizations representing major practice and specialty settings, education programs as well as geographic locations and major employing facilities. The panel members used their expertise to create a list of nursing activity statements that could be used to describe post entry-level practice.

Commenting on the importance of the task assigned to them Panelist Candace Melancon, an LPN from Louisiana, remarked, “Developing structured, consistent competencies (nursing activity statements) is crucial for the successful future of nurses.”

Each of the panels worked to refine a list of nursing activities until they had developed a comprehensive list of nursing competencies that reflected post-entry level practice throughout the country. Shirley Fields-McCoy, MSN, RN, noted that, “Continued competency must be addressed to ensure that each nurse maintains and augments the necessary knowledge and skills to be current in practice. Representing my colleagues in the American Nurses Association has been an honor. Continued competence is a professional responsibility for all nurses who maintain their licensure.”

The nursing professionals who will respond to the surveys will be asked to determine the importance of each of the activities listed in the post entry-level nursing activity statements. Data collection for the LPN/VN survey began in October 2005 with the collection process for RNs anticipated to begin in January 2006. All nurses receiving the survey are strongly encouraged to complete and return it as their participation in this study offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the nursing profession.

For more information about NCSBN’s work on continued competence for nurses, access the NCSBN Web site at www.ncsbn.org.

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If you are a parent, it is important to note that the Campbell County School District has been ranked in the top 15% of school districts nationwide for the last five years by School Match. Our population of 20,000 provides the advantage of a smorgasbord of activities for children - sports, drama, music, and academics - allowing each child to become a well rounded individual.

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A review of the Nursing Home Compare Data from Medicare.gov on Wyoming long-term care facilities was done in June 2005. The purpose was to determine how Wyoming long-term care facilities compare to the Wyoming and national average for nurse staffing. All data was taken from Medicare.gov, Nursing Home Compare effective May 4, 2005.

Wyoming has 38 licensed long-term care facilities. For the purpose of utilizing the graphs, the following long-term care facilities were assigned the following number:

1. Amie Holt, Buffalo
2. Bonnie Blue Jacket, Basin
3. Castle Rock Convalescent Center, Green River
4. Canyon Hills Manor, Thermopolis
5. Cheyenne Health Care, Cheyenne
6. Crook County Medical Services, Sundance
7. Goshen Care Center, Torrington
8. Livanon Memorial Hospital Extended Care Facility, Laramie
9. Laramie Care Center, Laramie
10. Life Care Center of Casper
11. Life Care Center of Cheyenne
12. Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Care Pavilion, Rawlins
13. Michael Manor Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center
14. Morning Star Care Center, Ft. Washakie
15. Mountain Towers Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center
16. New Horizons Care Center, Lovell
17. Pioneer Manor, Gillette
18. Platte County Memorial Nursing Home, Wheatland
19. Poplar Living Center, Casper
20. Powell Valley Care Center
21. Rocky Mountain Care, Evanston
22. Sage View Care Center, Rock Springs
23. Shepherd of the Valley Care Center, Casper
24. Sheridan Manor, Sheridan
25. South Central Wyoming Healthcare & Rehabilitation, Rawlins
26. St. John’s Nursing Home, Jackson
27. Star Valley Care Center, Star Valley
28. Sublette Center, Pinedale
29. United Medical Center-Transitional Care Unit, Cheyenne
30. Valley View Rehabilitation and Care Center, Saratoga
31. West Park Long Term Care Center
32. Weston County Health Services, Newcastle
33. Westview Care Center, Sheridan
34. Westward Heights Care Center, Lander
35. Wind River Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, Riverton
36. Wyoming Medical Center-Transition Care Unit, Casper
37. Worland Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Worland
38. Wyoming Retirement Center, Basin

RN Staffing

The national average for RN staffing is 1 hour 48 minutes (108 minutes) per resident per day. The Wyoming average is 1 hour 24 minutes (84 minutes) per resident per day. Figure 1 demonstrates the number of minutes of RN care per resident per day for each Wyoming long-term care facility. The graph also gives the Wyoming average and national average. Five (13%) of the facilities had greater than the Wyoming average: Livanon Memorial Hospital Extended Care unit (384 minutes), Wyoming Medical Center TCU (304 minutes), United Medical Center TCU (240 minutes), Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Pavilion (109 minutes), and St. John’s Care Center (85 minutes). Four (10%) of the facilities had more than the national average of 108 minutes per resident care per day.
Thirty-three (87%) of the long-term care facilities have less minutes of care per resident per day than the Wyoming and national averages. Four facilities have less than 30 minutes of RN care per resident per day: Mountain Towers (14 minutes), Crook County Medical Services (16 minutes), Goshen Care Center (19 minutes), and Cheyenne Health Care (30 minutes).

CNA Staffing

The national average for CNA care per resident per day is 2 hours 48 minutes (168 minutes). For Wyoming, the average nationally is 2 hours 42 minutes (162 minutes) per resident per day. Figure 3 demonstrates the number of minutes of CNA care per resident per day for each Wyoming long-term care facility. The graph also gives the Wyoming average and national average. Ten (26%) of the facilities had greater than the Wyoming average. The top 5 facilities with the most minutes of care are: United Medical Center TCU (206 minutes), Ivinson Memorial Hospital Extended Care Facility (185 minutes), Amie Holt (178 minutes), Castle Rock Convalescent Center (176 minutes), and Wyoming Medical Center TCU (170 minutes). Only 7 (18%) of the facilities had greater than the national average.

LPN Staffing

The national average for LPN care per resident per day is 1 hour 18 minutes (78 minutes), for Wyoming, the average is 42 minutes per resident per day. Figure 2 demonstrates the number of minutes of LPN care per resident per day for each Wyoming Long-term care facility. The graph also gives the Wyoming average and national average. Eleven (29%) of the facilities had greater than the Wyoming average. The top 5 facilities with the most minutes of care are: United Medical Center TCU (113 minutes), Memorial Hospital of Carbon County (83 minutes), Rocky Mountain Care Center (70 minutes), Crook County Medical Services (68 minutes), and Valley View Rehabilitation and Care Center. Only 2 (5%) of the facilities had greater than the national average.

Figure 2. Minutes of Care per Resident per Day by LPN

Twenty-seven (71%) of the long-term care facilities have less minutes of care per resident per day than the Wyoming and national averages. Six facilities have less than 13 minutes of LPN care per resident per day: Ivinson Memorial Hospital Extended Care Facility (0 minutes—they do not hire LPNs to work in the Extended Care Unit), Star Valley Care Center (9 minutes), South Central Wyoming Healthcare & Rehabilitation (10 minutes), Poplar Living Center (11 minutes), Amie Holt (13 minutes), and Shepherd of the Valley Care Center (13 minutes).
Fy06 Licensure/Certification Renewals

By: Cheryl L. Koski, MN, RN
Executive Director

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing would like to notify all license/certificate holders that all licenses/certificates expire December 31, 2006. The Board will begin the renewal process in October 2006. Renewal applications will be mailed to all license/certificate holders after October 1, 2006 to the last known address.

Wyoming is a mandatory licensure State. If your license/certificate expires December 31, 2006 and you do not renew by that date, you do not have a license/certificate to practice (work) in Wyoming. Practicing beyond December 31, 2006 without a current, active license/certificate may result in disciplinary action by the Board. It is the licensees' responsibility to keep the Board aware of their current address and to maintain active licensure/certification in the State. If your address has changed or will change before or during the renewal period, please contact the Board of Nursing Office in order to update your record.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Board office at 307-777-7601.

Disciplinary Actions Wyoming State Board of Nursing

Shawn Muncy, NA Applicant 02/15/05
Denial, Criminal History

Stormy Sutton, NA Applicant 02/28/05
Denial, Criminal History

Amber Brown, NA Applicant 04/26/05
Denial, Criminal History

Pamela Pendergaff, NA Applicant 07/11/05
Denial, Criminal History

Jackie Daywitt, CNA 07/11/05
Letter of Reprimand, Substandard Care

Anne Warden, LPN 07/11/05
Letter of Reprimand, Practicing Without A License

Christy Barker, NA Applicant 07/11/05
Letter of Reprimand, Practicing Without A License

Shari Long, RN 07/11/05
Conditional License, Drug Diversion/Dependency

Julie LaFavre, RN 07/11/05
Voluntary Surrender, Chemical Dependency

Tamara Dejongh, RN 07/11/05
Letter of Reprimand, Substandard Care

Kathryn Rogers, RN 07/11/05
Letter of Reprimand, Medication and Documentation Errors

Tina McNeel, LPN 07/11/05
Full Licensure Reinstatement, Chemical Dependency

Esther Domhoff, RN 09/12/05
Letter of Reprimand, Practicing Without A License

Roxanne Binstock, LPN 09/12/05
Full Licensure Reinstatement, Chemical Dependency

Lucian Scott, NA Applicant 10/11/05
Denial, Criminal History

Mary Beardsley, CNA 10/11/05
Letter of Reprimand, Substandard Care

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www.wbihelp.com
Center (176 minutes), Star Valley (169 minutes), and Pioneer Manor (168 minutes). Two more exceeded the Wyoming average (162 minutes): Shepherd of the Valley (164 minutes), and Weston County Health Services (162 minutes).

In summary, care provided by licensed nurses in Wyoming long-term care facilities does not meet national standards for care per resident per day. This seriously impacts the health, safety, and welfare of these most vulnerable adults.

A recent study by Horn et al., (2005) reported that the more RN staffing time was associated with fewer pressure ulcers, hospitalizations, urinary tract infections, weight losses, catheterizations, deterioration in the ability to perform activities of daily living, and greater use of oral standard medical nutrition supplements. The study also reported that the more certified nursing assistant and licensed practical nurse time was associated with fewer pressure ulcers but did not improve other outcomes stated above.

Currently, 8 of the 38 long-term care facilities have a substandard care survey from the Wyoming Department of Health Office of Licensing and Surveys. These facilities are prevented by Federal law from having a Nursing Aide Training, Competency and Evaluation Program.

On the average, Wyoming long-term care facilities do not meet the national average of minutes of care per resident per day. Research has reported that the more hours of RN care per resident per day is associated with positive outcomes.

References

Nursing leaders from around the state have come together on the University of Wyoming campus for two years in a row to address the nursing shortage in Wyoming. Nursing leaders and health care agency representatives came together to begin the process of addressing the complex issues surrounding the shortage which demands a comprehensive and collaborative approach in Wyoming. In order to make a comprehensive strategic plan certain key nursing leaders are needed. Nurses from practice, education, and the board must be at the table to ensure all aspects of nursing are taken into consideration during research and planning efforts. The summits have allowed for this to happen in addition to hearing from national speakers.

The second annual summit brought in experts to speak on the nursing shortage in general and on issues related to long term care. Local experts also contributed to the events of the day. Cheryl Koski R.N., Executive Director of the board, gave a presentation on the current workforce statistics for Wyoming. Dr. Karen Ouzts presented results from a survey conducted with participants from the first summit. The survey process revealed the top areas to address. According to those people who completed the survey, work place issues are a top priority. Specific questions included: How can we nurture professional behavior in the workplace? How much time does a nurse spend on paperwork while providing care & how can we harness technology to use nurses time more effectively?

The next summit is scheduled for October 5-7 in conjunction with the WNA Convention. For more information about previous summits visit the following two web sites.

First Annual Nursing Summit
http://uwadmmweb.uwyo.edu/nursing/aboutschool/nursingsummitsummary.asp

Second Annual Nursing Summit
http://uwadmmweb.uwyo.edu/NCNS/summit.asp
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