

RN NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN RADIOLOGICAL NURSES ASSOCIATION

JULY, 1998
VOLUME 3
NUMBER 3

SEE OUR
LATEST FEATURE -

RADIOLOGY NURSE HELPLINE

THROW OUT A LINE IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM OR QUESTION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS TO AN OPEN FORUM. IT WILL BE PRINTED IN RN News AND YOU HAVE YOUR ARNA COLLEAGUES AS A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE! email (OK, use snail mail if you wish) your issues, questions, problems or concerns to Helen O'Daly, Editor, RN News. See address on page 3

Rhonda Lyons, a nurse who has been charged with opening a new cath lab in Ashland, Kentucky is searching for information on this subject. Please email her with anything you think might help. Her address is: macbelieve@aol.com

You'll find more requests for help on p. 4. Please respond in a positive way and share your expertise.

DO YOUR SUMMER PLANS INCLUDE STUDYING????

by Helen O'Daly RN, BSN

They do if you are scheduled to take the exam for Radiology Nurse Certification on **August 15, 1998**. You are planning to study beside the pool, with your friends, on car trips, plane trips and all other trips. "What on earth are you studying for now? Haven't you finished your nursing education yet?", you may be asked. Your family knows that you have not yet attained finality in your quest for nursing excellence, as do your close friends. They understand what kind of a nurse you are. They know you will not be satisfied unless you continue to reach for higher goals than what is thought to be the accepted norm. That part of you is why they respect and support your decision to take yet another test of your knowledge, this time in your field of specialization.

This will be only the second opportunity for Radiology Nurses to qualify by examination for the title "CRN" - Certified Radiology Nurse.

Why not make plans to be among the experts in the field of Radiology Nursing? Although the deadline for application has passed, it may be worth a try to contact Professional Testing Corp. (PTC) for registration material. The telephone number is:

(212) 852-0400

The schedule for the next two exams is:

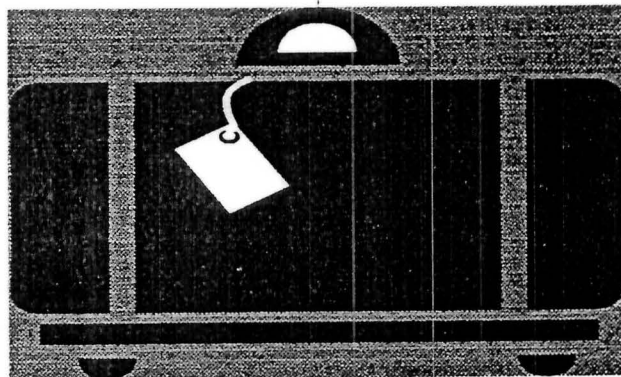
Apply by 12/31/98 for exam on 2/20/99.

Apply by 6/30/99 for exam on 8/14/99.

GOOD LUCK!

CHICAGO, CHICAGO...

Do not make the mistake of thinking that November is a long way off if you have intentions of attending the 17th Annual Meeting and Educational Program of ARNA, in conjunction with the RSNA Assembly and Meeting. It is said that housing goes fast so if you have a preference, act now. For further information or to obtain a mailing contact the ARNA offices in Chicago at (603) 571-9072.



committee news ...

legislative awareness committee

Capitol Update

submitted by Liz Livingston, Chairperson

Legislative Awareness Committee

- * Two important bills have been introduced to the Senate: the Patient Safety Act (S.2055) and the Health Care Worker Protection Act (S.2056). The Patient Safety Act deals with nursing concerns in the workplace and is the only legislation that would require hospitals to make nursing staffing levels public. The Health Care Worker Protection Act would require Medicare participants to use FDA approved safe needle devices, thereby insuring access to these devices by health care workers. ANA is asking nurses to write both of their senators in support of these bills.
- * To protect patients, the Patient's Bill of Rights Act of 1998 has been submitted in response to the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry recommendations. It includes access to emergency, specialty, and chronic care, increased protection for women and children, choice of health care plans and adequate network providers, and whistle-blower and anti-discrimination protection. ANA is requesting that nurses contact their senators and representatives to urge action on this legislation.
- * The Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) was originally passed in 1992 to ensure uniform standards for personnel, equipment and quality assurance standards for mammography screening. As of Dec. 31, 1997 there were 10,161 accredited agencies with fewer than 1% having serious deficiencies. The Health Subcommittee of the house Commerce Committee held a hearing to discuss a bill reauthorizing MSQA (H. R. 1289). Additions to this bill include requiring that facilities have a system to notify all women of their results, and ensuring that government agencies can inspect facilities and notify patients and physicians of deficiencies. The intent is to act on the bill this year.
- * On May 19, 1998, the House voted to reauthorize, for five years, the Bone Marrow Program to recruit donors for patients suffering from cancer and other blood related diseases. H. R. 2202, which must now go to the Senate, would provide \$18 million for education programs, donor registries, and a patient advocacy office.

RN-Diagnostic Imaging Services

St. Nicholas Hospital is currently recruiting a registered nurse to support our cardiac catheterization lab and interventional radiology programs. This full-time position on the day shift will work closely with our board certified cardiologists and interventional radiologist to provide direct patient care and further develop these programs. This position has no weekend, holiday or call responsibilities.

Candidates must possess a license as a registered nurse and obtain licensure from the state of Wisconsin, be a graduate of an NLN accredited program and possess BLS and ACLS certification. Documented cardiac catheterization lab and critical care training and experience is a plus.

Sheboygan, Wisconsin is located an hour north and south of Milwaukee and Green Bay respectively on the eastern shore of lake Michigan. Sheboygan offers a four-season climate and has been named by Reader's Digest as the number one place in America to raise a family.

We offer competitive wages and a complete benefit package including: health, dental and life insurance; paid time off; extended illness benefits, continuing education assistance and more. For immediate consideration, please send or fax resume to:

St. Nicholas Hospital, Human Resources Recruiter, 1601 North Taylor Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53081, (920) 459-4649, Fax: (920)451-7280, EOE, An Affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System.

Meeting News

WINDY CITY CHAPTER

This chapter which includes the Chicago area announces the following:

September 2, 1998
 Windy City Chapter of ARNA
 MRI: A Nursing Perspective
 6PM refreshments
 6:30 PM Meeting call to order

location:
 Elmhurst Hospital
 200 Berteau Ave.
 Elmhurst, IL 60126
 RSVP: Harland Schaffer
 (630) 833-1400 pager 0528

DRIVING TO WORK: AN EXPERIENCE

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I stopped at the scene of a head-on car crash on July 16 while on my way to work. It was the first time I had stopped for something like that. "It appears that speed and a wet road surface caused the man to lose control of the car", the local newspaper said. Indeed, I had just used my cellular phone to alert my husband to what I thought were dangerous road conditions. A light summer rain that ended just before I left home had loosened oils on the road's surface.

The scene looked devastating to me; it had just occurred *seconds* before, as I would later learn. It was so early in the morning, the area was slightly remote and the police officer accepted my offer to stay. The two victims I could see were moaning in pain; the driver, a woman, was pinned between her seat and the air bag. The passenger said he was unable to move his legs. He had a right wrist fracture and he complained of pain in his chest. There was no human life visible from the overturned car which had collided with that of these innocent victims. My gut told me any occupants of that car were probably not alive and the danger of the situation hindered me from getting near the car. I felt helpless not having at my disposal the tools I usually rely on in my practice of nursing. For this crisis I had only my heart and my head, both honed by just shy of 20 years of nursing. What I was able to contribute was perhaps some small degree of comfort to these two people as we waited together for the arrival of the paramedics and the First Aid Squad. I was able to assess pulses and levels of consciousness and know they were not in jeopardy of immediate deterioration. There were no obvious head injuries. I kept them calm and validated their expressed concern that the other driver was probably dead. Their valuables were strewn around their destroyed car and I helped them get these together, since neither person had much mobility. Both people begged me to move the driver's seat back to release her and I knew that was the last thing in the world I should do. My knowledge base quickly opened to the chapter on anatomy and I could envision her aorta, lungs and liver more clearly than any non-radiology nurse! The air bag was exerting direct pressure and controlling any unseen bleeding. If it were released the driver's condition could deteriorate rapidly and I was alone in this for the time being. How do you explain that to these unfortunate people?

For many reasons I had to call upon my inner strength being there with them. First, just to get myself through it. Second, automatically I was late for work. Third, after a few moments of being at the scene, I realized the overturned car had been driving in front of mine minutes earlier and had sped up and passed illegally over a double solid line. It had driven quickly out of my line of vision and then the road conditions and the driver's speed contributed to his demise. What terror I felt when my brain uncovered that fact! I had been witness to his erratic driving and could have been a victim of it myself! I'll tell you this: I hugged my loved ones more closely that night.

When sufficient help arrived a police officer took my pertinent information and released me. As I drove off alone I felt slight nausea, now allowing myself to succumb to my own feelings. I called my husband again to tell him what had happened and also so he would not worry that I was involved in case he heard about the event on the route I take to work. It was a strange feeling to go about my daily routine at work and not know with certainty the outcome of this tragedy. When I went to the police station on my way home from work I found out that the investigating police officer's work day was going to be longer than mine. The post-mortem revealed that death occurred on impact: there was no inhaled blood in the lungs. The woman driver

had been airlifted to the trauma center. Both she and her passenger had sustained multiple internal and orthopedic injuries and are expected to survive.

The decision to stop at the scene was done in a flash of my mind. I was not just the nurse but also the observer of pertinent details and provider of comfort that police officers could not spare while attending to the details of a major accident scene. This is what the experience taught me, and I pass it on to you: never underestimate your value as a Radiology Nurse.
*Helen O'Daly RN, BSN
Editor, RN News*

RN NEWS

**RN NEWS IS
PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY TO KEEP
ARNA MEMBERS
BETTER INFORMED**

Send submissions and comments to:

Helen O'Daly RN, BSN
Editor, RN News
3 Heath Road
Monmouth Jct., NJ 08852
email:
nwheels@prodigy.com
fax: 732-632-1674

Editorial Staff:

Wendy Bommer RN, BSN
Cincinnati, Ohio
Julie McNay RNC, BS
Cincinnati, Ohio

RADIOLOGY NURSE HELPLINE

Following is a request for information pertinent to **Speical Procedures**:

Noting that there are "different standards related to aseptic technique in the intervention area" and that across the country, standards also differ, Heather Twilley writes:

"This is a heated subject in our institution at the moment. We need to know what other institutions are doing, and copies of documentation. This would include:

1. What barriers are worn to set up trays?
 2. What barriers are worn during procedures? e. g., gowns, gloves, masks, hair coverings, shoe covers, etc.
 3. Is the angiography area a 'restricted' area?
- Any information will be helpful."

Send your responses to:

Heather L. Twilley RN, CRN
3914 Watermelon Road #310-D
Northport, AL 35473
or call her at: 205-759-2563

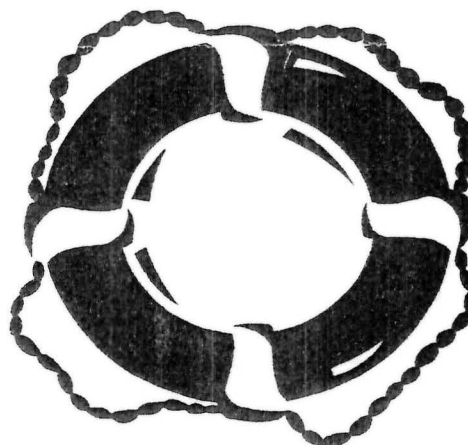
The only Radiology RN at a small community hospital submits the following request:

"Recently the radiologists have wanted to use **IV Morphine during HIDA scans** when gallbladders are not visualized after one hour..." "This has led to the need for policies/procedures regarding who administers the dose, what monitoring is appropriate and for how long, etc. I was hoping other institutions might already have such policies in place."

Now, I know many of us have already addressed *this* situation!!!

Please respond to:

Barbara Powers, RN, CCRN
Melrose Wakefield Hospital
Radiology Special Procedures
585 Lebanon Street
Melrose, MA 02176
(W) 781-979-6905 voice mail
781-979-3994 fax
(H) 15 Spruce Road
North Reading, MA 01864
e-mail bjp@aol.com



Would you like to submit questions, problems or concerns and receive answers, suggestions, or support from the experts in your field (ARNA members)???? Send them to RN News Editor Helen O'Daly - see page 3 for addresses.

CHAPTER NEWS

Maryland Chapter

submitted by Kathleen Gross RN, Secretary, ARNA:

-From "Radiology Exposures", a newsletter of Greater Baltimore Medical Center:

The Department of Radiology at Duke University Medical Center is one of the first radiology departments in the United States to employ a nurse practitioner. Melissa Holbrook, MSN, ANP has accepted a position as the Nurse Practitioner for Interventional Vascular Radiology. A nurse practitioner is an advanced practice nurse that is licensed jointly by the state board of nursing and the state medical board. The scope of practice for a nurse practitioner includes physician extender roles as well as prescriptive authority.

Congratulations, Melissa!

Alabama Chapter

submitted by Donna Whitlock RN, President, Alabama Chapter

Barbara Dean of Jackson Hospital did an outstanding job of hosting the May 9 meeting of this recently formed chapter. The luncheon meeting featured Charlene M. Roberson of the Alabama State Nurses Association who spoke about pertinent nursing issues.

The next meeting will be held in Birmingham, Alabama on Saturday, August 8, 1998 from 11 AM to 2 PM. For more information, Call (205) 934-0153. For anyone interested in joining the chapter, please call President Donna Whitlock at (205) 934-7245

NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF RN NEWS IS

October 26, 1998