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!
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.

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
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

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RADIOLOGY NURSE HELPLINE

Following is a request for information pertinent to Special 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.
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