

Creating positive change in the health of all British Columbians

BCNPA Town Hall Meeting October 30, 2014

All NPs and NP students are encouraged to attend a special 2014 Town Hall meeting on October 30. BCNPA has been the voice of nurse practitioners in British Columbia since 2005. However, in 2010, the Association of Registered Nurses of BC (ARNBC) came into being and represents the interests of both Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners at the provincial, national and international level. The two Associations have worked closely together over the past few years, but recognize that a more formal arrangement between the two would be beneficial for all and would clarify many of the questions raised by stakeholders, government and the public. Join us in person at Paezhold Auditorium (VGH) at 7pm on October 30, or join via webcast, to share your thoughts and vision for the future of the BCNPA and how you would like to see us collaborate with ARNBC. Information on how to join via webcast can be found at <http://www.bcnpa.org>.

Encounter Reporting

On October 1, 2014, the Encounter Reporting system went live. If you haven't checked out the Encounter Codes and the Encounter Reporting Online Resource Manual, visit <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoprac/np/index.html> to view the entire package. We want to hear how Encounter Reporting is working for you. Any problems, glitches, concerns, or rave reviews? Let us know your experiences so we can continue to make suggestions and refine the process. Contact us at info@bcnpa.org.

Congratulations!

On September 22, 2014, CRNBC presented the Nursing Awards of Excellence. Congratulations to BCNPA President Stan Marchuk and Northern Health's Celia Evanson – two nurse practitioners who have made a difference and were recognized for their leadership and dedication at the 2014 awards. In 2015, ARNBC will take over the Awards of Excellence from CRNBC, and begin a new chapter of recognizing B.C. nurses and nurse practitioners for their exceptional skills. Visit <http://www.arnbc.ca/awards/> to learn more or check out the history of nursing in B.C. video where this announcement was first made.

NP4BC

Over the past month there has been concern expressed about NP4BC funding. We are currently seeking information from the Ministry of Health to ascertain the current state of funding for the various rounds and to clarify if there is unspent dollars how they could be utilized to better support NP integration and access to care. Stay tuned.

Do Bugs Need Drugs

As you may recall, the Do Bugs Need Drugs program has distributed a complimentary hardcopy of the Bugs and Drugs antimicrobial reference guide to nurse practitioners in B.C. over the past few years. The program has decided to change access to the references and is pleased to be able to offer NPs in B.C. with a complimentary copy of the Bugs and Drugs iPhone app for those who are interested.

NPs may place their order using the Fluid Survey: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/NursePractitioners/>

Alternately you can check-out their website through the link below.

<http://www.dobugsneeddrugs.org/health-care-professionals/nursing-resources/>

Conference 2015 – Celebrating 10 Years of NPs in B.C.

2015 is an important year for nurse practitioners in the province of British Columbia. We are celebrating our 10th year since the NP role was formalized and legislated in the province. Conference 2015 will provide an opportunity for us to reflect on the many successes we have achieved as NPs – and to discuss some of the barriers and challenges that continue to hold us back. Join us June 12 – 14 at the Hyatt in downtown Vancouver for this historic event. If you would like to volunteer to participate in the committee please email us at info@bcnpa.org.

Credentialing & Privileging Project

The provincial privileging standards project will identify objective, criteria-based privileges and associated standards for physicians, dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and other health professionals as identified by the Physician Quality Assurance Steering Committee (PQASC) practicing medicine in British Columbia. These privilege dictionaries will bring consistency in understanding and expectations across the province for those requesting privileges, as well as those approving privilege requests, with the ultimate goal of ensuring patients are being properly diagnosed and treated by practitioners who have met the predetermined standards.

Nurse Practitioners from Health Authorities, Universities and the CRNBC are participating in this project. More information can be obtained from an NP in your Health Authority or by access to the BCNPA website or the following link: http://www.privileging.typepad.com/privileging_project/.

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B.C.'s Nurse-Family Partnership Program

Once a baby is born in B.C., all sorts of services kick in to support mom and baby, the health authorities and ministry are interested in reaching all women during the earlier parts of their pregnancy. Aside from Northern Health, which has had a pre-natal registry for 12 years, most of the Health Authorities have only just launched their pre-natal registry (and all have different names). The Ministry and Health Authorities want to get the word out to nurse practitioners, physicians and midwives about this important service, and are asking NPs to help raise interest and knowledge in the registry. Check out the letter from the Partnership to learn more. <http://bcnpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Prenatal-Registry.pdf>

Rural Health Consultation

The Ministry of Health has asked BCNPA to participate in a discussion on rural health, along with counterparts from some of the other professional associations and the health authority CNOs. The purpose of the day will be to facilitate discussion on: whether the work being undertaken supports the objectives/meets population needs, to consider what policy considerations are required to support this work, and to determine what actions are required to address barriers and concerns. Stay tuned for future updates on the outcomes and recommendations of this forum.

Regulation/Legislation Update

As you know there were regulatory/legislative changes made in Bill 17 on May 29, 2014, however the implementation of the changes is not complete for all the acts.

Further work is required by government to the following acts:

SECTION 136: (Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act, section 2)

SECTION 138: (School Act, section 92)

SECTION 144: (Workers Compensation Act, section 1) – changes to occur January 2014

BCNPA continues to work with government and CRNBC to address barriers to practice. Stay tuned as we provide further updates. Additional information can be accessed through CRNBC <https://www.crNBC.ca/crNBC/Announcements/2014/Pages/Bill17Update.aspx>

Select Standing Committee On Health

As you may know, the Select Standing Committee on Health has been mandated by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia to identify potential strategies for maintaining a sustainable health care system. The Committee is seeking written submissions from stakeholders and the public. Deadline for submissions is December 31, 2014. Visit <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/health/> to learn how you can participate.

Social Media

BCNPA is very active in use of Social Media for updates.

Connect with us via

Twitter: @BCNPA or

Facebook: BC Nurse Practitioners Association.