

President's Message

Michael Kinslow, CRNA, President



To begin, I would like to quote one of our past PANA Presidents by saying "The world is run by those who show up!" This was Sue Taylor's quote from her *Tidings* report in April of 2002. Ever so appropriate for us now, these timeless words ring so true.

What will it take for us to show up? Usually it's a crisis of some sort, an urgency to put out a fire somewhere. In my year as President, I will ask you to show up and be counted on to be preemptive, proactive, and protective for your profession, instead of the other way around. Don't look for any last minute round-ups to circle the wagons on my watch. Expect a new tack, as your PANA board invites you to join them by visiting our legislators' local offices. When we visit, it normally takes fifteen minutes or less, and we let them know what exactly we do in our profession, and they are actually very interested and really want to know what we do. Can you donate fifteen minutes? Ask your State Representative to support our House Bill HB 1066 to help protect our livelihood by placing what is now in regulation, into statute (law), and ask your State Senator to support our Senate Bill SB 452 the exact same way. This is known as "grassroots lobbying" since everyone across the state takes a little time to stop by and say "hello" as a constituent, a taxpayer, and a voter. Call our lobbyists, The Winter Group, to get your talking points before you go and then call us to let us know who you contacted. Drive home the point that we want to remain under the State Board of Nursing only.

Will you join us in supporting our state events this year? We have 6 scheduled board meetings (open to any CRNA from PA), the Spring Symposium (The Hotel Hershey), the Fall Symposium (Gettysburg Hotel), and many PANA members are looking forward to attending the IFNA in Lausanne, Switzerland to meet up with the rest of the world's nurse anesthetists! In addition, consider heading down to Washington, D.C. with our board and students to attend the AANA Midyear Assembly. This is the most highly recommended event and is extremely well done. I guarantee you will come away with the experience of feeling like you really made a difference for you and your profession. Join the rest of your colleagues from around the country and visit Capitol Hill with us!

We have congratulations in order to Hazel Currier, CRNA from York, PA who has just celebrated her 103rd birthday on November 7th. Hazel was not only a past PANA President; she is also our oldest living AANA Past President from 1967. And some tragic news, a good friend and mentor for Pennsylvania Hospital CRNAs and graduates, John Fox, CRNA was killed suddenly on his way to work in an automobile accident this September. Our sincere condolences to his family were made through a plaque honoring his contributions and presented at our Fall Symposium in Atlantic City.

Many thanks are due to the great volunteer work from our program committee co-chairs Diana Davidson and Patty Reilly for having the Atlantic City PANA/NJANA Joint Fall Symposium be so successful. The presenters were all outstanding and extremely well received. We acknowledged Sue Taylor, CRNA with a Governor's Proclamation for her long standing commitment and her launching our very active Practice Committee. In addition, the PANA has created an ad hoc committee called Wellness. Brent Sommer, CRNA and Art Zwerling, CRNA spearheaded this by presenting an outline of what can be a vital part of being a CRNA. Look for this to grow into a committee in our near future! State Representative Stephen Barrar graced us as well with a presentation from the PA House of Representatives and discussed our role in politics as Advanced Practice Nurses. He stated that for a nurse population of over 200,000, we only have 1 or 2 nurses in the House, not enough for all of those nurses that they represent...that is exactly why we need to take 15 minutes to say hello to our lawmakers. Last but not least, one more thank you to past President Elsie Murray's husband Alex for driving her all over the state of Pennsylvania and beyond for the past year. What a guy!

The ad hoc committee for the PANA Executive Director has completed its research as tasked from over a year ago at the Annual Business meeting. What has been developed is a job description and agreement possibilities from the data. The next phase, should your board motion to continue, would be to task the Finance committee with creating a neutral budget and then put out an RFP to see if there are interested parties. Ideally, a CRNA from around the State Capitol with a strong interest in leadership and being "the face of the PANA" would be chosen.

At this point, I would like to ask every single CRNA in our great state to kindly submit their correct email address (and telephone number) to both the AANA and to The Winter Group. We are getting too much wrong and outdated information returned to us. In this age of high speed technology and communication, we would much rather have you get our information communicated to you within a few hours, as opposed to waiting a few months and reading about it in the *Tidings*! We promise not to abuse it in any way whatsoever! If you haven't done so, take a look at the impressive web work from Mike Loomis, CRNA on our website at PANA.org

The new PANA PAC chair is Skip Lamoreaux, CRNA from Hershey, PA. He has volunteered to handle your caring contributions for the next 2 years. As a reminder, please send only personal checks, and we ask for just an hour's worth of wages for this very important campaign. Please note that our Managing Director Angie Armbrust has a new address as well, The Winter Group has moved a few doors down from where they were last year. From the AANA, our state was acknowledged for being the fifth largest contributor to the AANA PAC ...thanks to everyone who has done so!

WWW.PANA.ORG



Meet Your PANA Board Julie Antidormi, CRNA, MSN



Hi, I am Julie Antidormi CRNA, MSN, serving as PANA board Trustee 2004-06, Nominating Committee Chair 2004-06, and Publications Committee Chair 05-06. I am pleased to serve on the board. Thank you for your votes.

I would first like to tell you of my journey as a nurse. I think my interest started as a child and the many visits to the ER. It peaked when I was a patient myself as a teenager from a bad accident. My career into nursing began at the Community Medical Center School of Nursing, Scranton PA. Upon graduating with my RN, I began as staff nurse in their Intensive Care Unit where I received great critical care experience. After six months I began yet another journey, attaining my BSN.

A career move led me to Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown PA, into their Shock Trauma Unit with an occasional float to the other ICU's. After a few years there, I moved into the Operating Room. It was here that I saw first hand what a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist really did. Wanting more out of my nursing career and with the completion of my BSN at Cedar Crest College in Allentown (my passport into a graduate track), Nurse Anesthesia was where I wanted to be. Thank you to the guys at LVH that encouraged this move. I attended the Lankenau School of Nurse Anesthesia with Villanova University MSN affiliate. This advanced track provided a great start as a neophyte into the Nurse Anesthesia profession. My thanks to Bette Wildguste, program director at Lankenau, the clinical sites and my many preceptors.

Currently, I am part of the Anesthesia Care Services at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, PA. The main site on Cedar Crest Boulevard is a level one Trauma center with high-level acuity. It has nineteen Operating Rooms, which include its Code Red OR. We also provide anesthesia in the GI suites, EP labs, interventional radiology and at the bedside when needed. Two off site surgical centers have a combined total of fifteen OR suites. Our sister hospital at the Muhlenburg Campus accommodates seven OR's. The LVH system is currently under expansion to accommodate the wide variety of surgical cases and increase in the patient population. Additionally, we serve as a clinical rotation site for SRNAs from five Nurse Anesthesia Schools.

Serving on the board has not only opened my eyes to my profession but it has also reinforced to me how important it is for each of us as CRNAs and constituents of PA to have a voice...not only a voice as a patient advocate but also a voice at the legislative grassroots level. It is paramount that we protect our profession. If we don't, who will??

Know Your Legislator Representatives Merle H. Phillips



Merle H. Phillips, the Majority Caucus Administrator of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, has served continuously in the House as a State Representative since March 1980. He represents the 108th Legislative District, which includes Parts of Northumberland and Snyder Counties.

As a Republican House Member, who has completed 25 years of legislative service, Representative Phillips is in his seventh term as Majority Caucus Administrator. In his previous terms, he has served as Republican Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Game and Fisheries Committee, as Secretary of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, and as a member of the Transportation and Appropriations Committees.

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For more information, contact PANA at the address below

Publishing Schedule and Deadlines

Tidings is published quarterly in the following months: January, April, July and October.

Deadlines for submission of articles or advertising is the first business day of the following months: December, March, June and September.

Chemical Dependency? Need to talk to someone?

PANA Chemical Dependency Contact Person

Art Zwerling, CRNA, MS

Home: 215-635-0183

Work: 215-829-5691

Pager: 215-998-1241



TIDINGS

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PANA Publications Julie Antidormi, CRNA

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CAPITOL INSIGHTS

Angie Mellott Armbrust, Winter Group

Session Update

The legislature came back to session in late September but most of their fall was taken up; with debate over the legislative pay raise. After months of editorials and rallies around the Commonwealth, and with little end in sight, leaders in the House and Senate pushed through language that repeals pay raises for all involved, including the state's judiciary. While not requiring a return of the unvouchered expenses taken by some legislators since July 7th, many House and Senate members have already announced their intention to return the payments. They then turned their attention to property tax relief. The House and Senate grappled with several versions of property tax reform but failed to reach a compromise solution by their Thanksgiving break. Tax reform remains at the top of their agenda. The legislature reconvenes at the end of January.

Legislation of Interest

The Winter Group maintains a list of all bills that pertain to PANA and sends weekly updates to your Executive Board for comments. The following is a summary of the recent action that some of those bills have seen.

SR 204 Senator Mary Jo White—Resolution designating the week of January 22 through 28, 2006, as “Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Week” in Pennsylvania. *Bill History: 11-21-05 Introduced and adopted.*

SB 235 Senator Pat Vance—Amends the Professional Nursing Law providing for continuing nursing education by adding that beginning with the license period designated by regulation, licensees would be required to attend and complete 30 hours of mandatory continuing education during each two-year license period. The Board may waive all or a portion of the continuing education requirement for biennial renewal for a licensee who shows to the satisfaction of the Board that the licensee was unable to complete the requirements due to serious illness, military service or other demonstrated hardship. Lastly, the bill states school nurses who are required to obtain continuing professional education would be permitted to submit evidence of the completion of education courses approved for their certification by the school district. *Bill History: 11-02-05 Passed 49/0 in the Senate. Received in the House and referred to House Professional Licensure.*

HB 1987, HB 2024, HB 2025 Representative LaGrotta and Goodman—Bills that would establish a nursing and nursing educator loan forgiveness and scholarship program. *Bill History: Introduced and referred to House Professional Licensure & Education Committees.*

Alliance Updates

The Alliance of Health Care Providers continues to meet regularly to discuss items impacting the health care provider community. The group recently met with Jim Hardy, Deputy Secretary, Office of Medical Assistance Programs at the PA Department of Public Welfare.

The Alliance of Advance Practice Nurses held its annual APRN Lobby Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, October 25th. The event kicked off with a rally and press conference in the Main Rotunda at 1 PM, followed by visits to legislators in the afternoon. A reception that evening from 4-6 PM was held in the East Wing Rotunda. PANA members Mike Kinslow, Elsie Murray, Sue Taylor, and Diana Davidson attended the event and met with several legislators that afternoon and evening.

The Alliance is currently hard at work coordinating a meeting with Rosemarie Greco, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform (OCHR). The Alliance presented its *APRN Action Agenda for the Commonwealth* to Ms. Greco and her staff during the summer of 2005. OCHR then asked the group to target in on a few key goals that each nursing specialty would like to address so that the OCHR could work with the Alliance to further those goals. The Alliance is scheduled to meet with OCHR staff soon to go over these key goals.

State Board Updates

The Winter Group continues its monthly monitoring of The State Boards of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, and Nursing. We attend these meetings monthly on PANA's behalf and alert your Executive Board when an issue impacting PANA comes before any of these Boards. The State Board of Medicine recently proposed regulations dealing with physicians' assistants that PANA submitted comments on. The PANA Board is currently in the process of making a request to the State Board of Nursing to make a presentation to the Board on the use of propofol.

Grassroots Lobbying Presentation Made to CRNAs in District 2

Mark Singel and Peg Moyer from The Winter Group made a presentation at District 2's recent fall meeting in Pittston, PA. They spoke to attendees on the importance of reaching out to their elected officials and informing them on who CRNAs are, what CRNAs do, and issues affecting CRNA practice in PA. Detailed information on how to contact and speak to their legislators was handed out and discussed. CRNAs in attendance responded very positively to the presentation and hopefully will spread the word to their fellow CRNAs! Another grassroots lobbying presentation will be made to District 1 at its March 4, 2006 meeting. If you're interested in seeing this demonstration come to your district please contact The Winter Group at 717-909-9562.

CRNA Week 2006—Lobby Day at the Capitol

On **Tuesday, January 24, 2006** PANA members from across the state came to the Capitol to celebrate CRNA Week in Pennsylvania. There was a press conference in the Main Rotunda at noon followed by legislative visits. **Please plan to join us!** Please contact The Winter Group at 717-909-9562 or info@pana.org to let us know that you're coming.

As always, The Winter Group would like to encourage every CRNA in Pennsylvania to look up his or her Representative and Senator and to call, email, or make an appointment to see them. We work hard here in Harrisburg to advance the agenda of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists, but legislators also value input from their constituents. We simply ask that you chat with your legislators about your profession, answer any questions that they might have about your work, and ask them to consider being a cosponsor to HB 1066 or SB 452. Talking points including information on both of these bills are available in the Members section of the PANA website (www.pana.org). **To locate your legislator: go to www.legis.state.pa.us and type your zip code in the box in the upper right corner of the page.** Click on your Representative and Senator to view their bio and contact information. If you have any questions on how to contact your legislator please call us here at The Winter Group.

Know Your Legislator...continued

Representative Phillips was formerly the President of Irish Valley Food Processing. His military service includes 4 ½ years active Duty in the Marine Corps and 2 years in the Reserves. He attended Susquehanna University and Lower Mahanoy Township High School, 1946.

Representative Phillips serves on the Emmanuel Bible Fellowship Church Board of Trustees, YMCA Board of Directors, Sunbury Community Hospital Board of Trustees, to name a few of the organizations that he donates time to. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors from his community and peers.

Contact Information: DISTRICT OFFICE—Address: 106 Arch Street, Sunbury, PA 17801, Telephone: (570) 286-5885, 1-800-924-9060, Fax: (570) 988-1627. HARRISBURG OFFICE—Address: 315J Main Capitol Building, House Box 202020, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020, Telephone: (717) 787-3485, Fax: (717) 783-7722

STUDENT VOICE

By Bruce Kilpatrick, RN, BSN, PANA Student Representative

It is a great pleasure and honor to have this unique opportunity to serve you as PANA's 2006 Student Representative. I think there is no better forum, as a SRNA, to participate in and learn firsthand the legislative aspects of nurse anesthesia. It is enlightening to talk with colleagues from around Pennsylvania who are struggling with similar challenges, and seeing everyone pull together to define the best solutions. It also enables me to interact with each of you as we develop and cultivate into safe clinical practitioners.

I salute my predecessor, Kirk Foster for all his hard work and ingenious ideas. I would also like to personally compliment President Michael Kinslow and PANA's board members for their untiring efforts to drive this Association and for their efforts to provide the opportunity for each of us to benefit from their sound professional leadership. Most of all, thank you Joan Woods for your thoughtful insight and encouragement to be the "architect of my education" and for providing a solid nurse anesthesia educational foundation.

Being a new senior, I recall the past year of frugality, mental exhaustion, and life discovery. The challenges that one endures during the anesthesia educational

process limits one's ability to continue working unlimited hours, along with personal sacrifices to stay abreast of an immense academic load. I encourage you to lean on your fellow colleagues for support, because only they know what demanding difficulties you are facing.

Given the enormous amount of information that one has to memorize and regurgitate at any time, mental exhaustion is expected. Learning to pace yourself and not procrastinate, leads to a rewarding, strong academic and clinical foundation; one that you will be proud of for taking that extra effort and asking the question "why".

Challenging ourselves is the essence of who we are as nurses and it drives our profession to higher standards. It exemplifies the characteristics that set us apart, and defines the values we hold dear. I have discovered this last year what a wonderful profession nurse anesthesia is and I challenge all of you to become involved in your state and national association.

Cheers!

Wellness Program Rolls Out at PANA /NJANA Conference in October

Brent Sommers, CRNA, MPHS, the project director for the AANA Wellness Program introduced the history, vision and objectives of the AANA Wellness Program at the combined PANA/NJANA Fall Symposium held at the Atlantic City Convention Center Sheraton. Brent did a splendid job bringing us up to speed on the AANA commitment and active involvement in production of the DVD lecture series, *Wearing Masks 2 and 3*.

In addition the AANA will be launching a Wellness Website that will serve as a clearing house for a broad array of support and informational resources to increase CRNA/SRNA health and wellness. Brent also shared with us some of the input from the AANA's Blue Ribbon Panel of Experts, who include, Michael Roizen, MD, PhD, Jan Fawcett MD, Margie Gale, RN MSN, Tony Devencenzi, EAP director at Kaiser-Permanente, Penny Ziegler, MD, FASAM, and Virginia Trotter Betts, MSN, JD, RN, FAAN. I am very proud to report that I have had the privilege to participate with Brent and Dirk Wales, the project directors of the Wellness Project and the Blue Ribbon Panel as a representative of the AANA Peer Assistance Advisors Committee. We are currently collaborating with Dr. Roizen on the development of an individualized CRNA/SRNA wellness assessment tool that will utilize a number of the concepts incorporated in Dr. Roizen's Real Age paradigm. Please see: <http://www.realage.com/> I have forced myself despite my crazed schedule to incorporate a number of Dr. Roizen's recommendations into my daily routine.

We had the opportunity to be the first professional group to view the All Anesthesia Production *Wearing Masks 3*, which was supported by an unrestricted grant from the AANA. It is an incredibly powerful and effective educational tool for learning the impact of chemical dependency on our community as well as the implications of the last 20 years of neuroscience research into the nature of neurological lesions that underpin the chronicity of addictions. The DVD series are available from the AANA bookstore at www.aana.com/bookstore and All Anesthesia at <http://allanesthesia.com/default.htm>

The WM3 DVD should be available shortly. The WM4 project will be starting production this winter.

I am also very pleased to inform our members that at the PANA Board of Directors meeting on 10-22-05, the BOD approved the formation of an ad hoc, Wellness Committee that will be chaired by Mike Conti, CRNA. Current members include Mike, myself and Paula Weiss, CRNA. Our chairman, Mike can be reached at meconti@comcast.net for member questions and input. We look forward to bringing the membership an array of educational and support services at the PANA Spring Symposium at the Hotel Hershey, April 7th to 9th 2006. Remember to book your room and SPA appointments early!

I can't tell you all how much I appreciate the additional assistance the PANA has provided with the formation of the Wellness Committee. Given that we are the largest Constituent chapter in the US and have that we have morphed in to the national epi-center of CRNA educational programs, I am grateful for any help I can get! As we move along with the initiative I am hopeful that our program directors will support bringing these resources into our nurse anesthesia educational programs. I believe I speak for everyone on the PANA BOD that we would love to see more active participation of our students and faculty within the organization.

On the Peer Assistance front, I'd like to report that our national on line support group Anesthetist In Recovery now has 175 active members participating in our e-group. Any CRNA/SRNA that is in recovery from chemical dependency or in need of Recovery can contact me at a.taz@comcast.net for an invite to AIR. We recently set up another e-group for the significant others that are struggling with a member in need of recovery or in recovery called PAIR (Partners of Anesthetists in Recovery). Anyone seeking more information can also contact me at my e-mail address or at home at 215-635-0183.

Art Zwerling, MS, MSN, CRNA, FAAPM, PANA VP

Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) Update

The Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) Program monitors the accuracy with which Medicare claims are billed, paid, and processed. Under the CERT Program a random sample of about 2,500 claims are selected annually from each Medicare carrier and Fiscal Intermediary (FI) for medical review. Medical records for the sampled claims are requested by the CERT Documentation Office and the reviews are completed by AdvanceMed, the CERT Review Contractor. The end product of this effort is error rates at a national and carrier / FI level, as well as error rates by type of service and provider type (specialty).

HGS Administrators (HGSA), the Medicare Part B carrier for Pennsylvania, frequently analyzes the CERT error data for Pennsylvania Medicare Part B to identify opportunities for claims processing improvement and provider education. To date, the CERT reviews conducted by AdvanceMed have resulted in limited errors for services performed by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). This is great news!

The CERT errors that have been identified have primarily been a result of the submission of insufficient medical record documentation. Insufficient documentation errors occur when the provider responds to the CERT medical record request, but does not include all pertinent patient facts (the patient's condition, diagnosis, and extent of services performed) in the medical record documentation submitted for review.

For the services in error, a copy of the anesthesia flow record was not submitted, as well as documentation of the anesthesia pre-op evaluation, anesthesia order, and post-op anesthesia care.

CRNAs can prevent future CERT insufficient documentation errors, and the resulting overpayment requests from HGSA, by submitting all of the medical record documentation (such as that listed in the prior paragraph) to support services that are performed and billed to Medicare. Sometimes the necessary documentation resides with the facility where the service was performed. In these situations, physicians and non-physician providers must work with the facility to obtain the needed documentation. As a reminder, you are required to submit all of the documentation to substantiate services billed to Medicare.

Recently the CERT record request letters were customized by provider type, and in some cases, by procedure code so that the documentation components that are needed to fulfill CERT requests are clearly specified. An example of the CERT record request letter can be found on HGSA's CERT webpage at www.hgsa.com/professionals/mr/cert.shtml.

Another key to preventing CERT errors is to maintain awareness of Medicare guidelines and carrier Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) / Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs).

The following is a current list of HGSA's LCDs / LMRPs that are directly applicable to CRNAs:

- LCD A-7 Medical Direction of Anesthesia Services
- LCD A-8 Payment for Anesthesia Services
- LCD A-13 Anesthesia Services provided By A Qualified Anesthetist
- LCD A-16 Office-Based Anesthesia
- LMRP A-4 Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC)
- LMRP A-15 Anesthesia for Intraoral Procedures

Keeping up with changes in Medicare guidelines and LCDs / LMRPs can be difficult. Physicians and non-physician providers can stay informed through regular visits to HGSA's website, www.hgsa.com, or by joining one of HGSA's mailing lists. By subscribing you receive important and time sensitive Medicare changes that are of most importance / relevance to you. Visit www.hgsa.com/maillinglist.shtml to join today.

HGSA appreciates the opportunity to share this information, and looks forward to working with Pennsylvania's CRNAs to further reduce Medicare error rates.

Mark Your Calendars!

April 7-9, 2006- PANA Spring Symposium- The Hotel Hershey, Hershey, PA, registrations will be sent to PANA, 234 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, phone: 1-800-495-7262, fax 717-909-9563

June 9-13, 2006 8th World Congress for Nurse Anesthetist- Lausanne Switzerland- for more information visit www.wcna2006.ch or contact Margie Darbut.

October 6-8, 2006 Fall 2006: PANA 2006 Fall Symposium, The Gettysburg Hotel, Gettysburg, PA, registrations will be sent to PANA 234 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, phone: 1-800-495-7262, fax 717-909-9563

Kudos to Susan Taylor

On October 23rd, Governor Edward G. Rendell recognized Susan Humes Taylor for her many years of meritorious service. We are proud of Susan for this recognition and her dedication to the profession.

In Memorium

Marlene Kaminsky Rankin , CRNA – 1956-2005

Marlene E. Kaminsky Rankin, 49, of Houston, formerly of Mt. Pleasant, died Tuesday, September 13, 2005, in her home. She was born June 27, 1956, in Mt. Pleasant, a daughter of Thomas and Kathryn Turik Kaminsky of Mt. Pleasant. She was a nurse anesthetist, employed by Washington Hospital. She was a 1974 Mt. Pleasant Area High School graduate. She also was a graduate of Washington Hospital School of Nursing and University of Pittsburgh. She was a member of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Mt. Pleasant. Surviving, in addition to her parents, are a son, J. Thomas Rankin of Nogano, Japan; a sister, Kathy Walters and husband Larry of White; and two nieces, Christie Fraser and husband Ted and Nicole Horak and husband James.

Services were held Saturday, September 17, under the direction of Galone-Caruso Funeral Home Inc., Mt. Pleasant. The family suggests memorials be made to Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, corner of Walnut and Eagle Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666.

Published in the Washington, PA - Observer-Reporter on 9/18/2005.

John J. Fox , CRNA –1949-2005

John J. Fox, CRNA, 56, of Yardley, Pa., passed away on September 27, 2005. He was the beloved husband of Geraldine Turcich Fox and father of Kathleen and John Michael Fox. He was the son of Anne McBride and the late John J. Fox and brother of Nancy Crosby and the late Tina Glacken.

A Funeral Mass was held at St. John the Evangelist Church, 752 Big Oak Road, Lower Makefield Twp., PA. Burial was held at Our Lady of Grace Cemetery, Langhorne, PA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Pennsylvania Hospital Development Office, 800 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3096. Arrangements were handled by Fitzgerald-Sommer Funeral Home, Yardley, PA.

Published in the Philadelphia Inquirer/Philadelphia Daily News on 9/29/2005.

Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC)

HGSAdministrators revised Local Coverage Determination (LCD) A-4 on Monitored Anesthesia Care. The revised LCD includes the removal of the following codes from the policies CPT list of codes that usually do not require MAC:

- 00520 – Anesthesia for closed chest procedures; (including bronchoscopy) not otherwise specified
- 00740 – Anesthesia for upper gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures, endoscope introduced proximal to duodenum
- 00810 – Anesthesia for lower intestinal endoscopic procedures, endoscope introduced distal to duodenum

Although this revision removes the underlying condition requirements represented by the ICD-9 codes for the above anesthesia services, the documentation and facility requirements outlined in the LCD continue to apply to the removed codes, as well as any other anesthesia code performed as a MAC service (anesthesia service with the QS modifier appended).

Consequently, when reporting MAC for codes 00520, 00740 and 00810, and the patient does not meet the underlying condition requirements (ICD-9 codes), but a paralytic drug is administered (e.g. propofol); it is no longer necessary to document the drug in block 19 of the 1500 claim form or the EDI equivalent.

However, when MAC is administered for the following indications/conditions the service will be considered on an individual consideration basis. In this instance MAC is reported for one of the codes listed in the “CPT/HCPCS Codes” section of LCD A-4 and no underlying medical condition exists to support the necessity of the service (i.e., an ICD-9 code in the ICD-9 Codes That Support Medical Necessity” section of LCD A-4). See below for coding instructions.


- Combative patients (report ICD-9 code 308.3)
- Patients with low pain thresholds or who suffer severe pain (report “pain” in block 19 of the 1500 claim form or the EMC equivalent.)

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- Intraoperative expansion of procedure (report ICD-9 code 998.9)
- Any condition in a pediatric patient, Medicare eligible (report “pediatric patient” in block 19 of the 1500 claim form or the EMC Equivalent)
- Mental retardation (e.g., patients who are uncooperative due to a lack of understanding caused by their mental disability) report ICD-9 code 319)
- The administration of certain anesthetic drugs that require the expertise of an M.D., D.O. (not directly performing the surgical/diagnostic procedure) or a CRNA (e.g. propofol, fentanyl, versed, diprivan, stadol) (report ICD-9 code V58.83)

As always, all supporting documentation for the service must be maintained in the patients’ medical record and forwarded to the carrier upon request. To view the complete LCD in its entirety, visit: <http://www.hgsa.com/professionals/lcd/a4h.html>

PANA Awards and Scholarship Recipients

Winners of PANA Student Scholarships for 2005

- Deanna Alko - University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
- Isbella Michelle Cooper - Temple University/ Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing
- Patricia Gwayi-Chore - Drexel University Nurse Anesthesia Program
- Thomas P. Feightner - Westmoreland; Latrobe School of Anesthesia
- Laurie Anne Foley - Drexel University Nurse Anesthesia Program
- Carol A. Mackin - University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

Annual PANA Awards

Outstanding Student of the Year Co-Winners

- Kelley Wiltse and Deanna Alko

Didactic Instructor of the year

- Brent Dunworth

Clinical Instructor of ht Year

- Aaron Ostrowski

CRNA Clinician of the Year

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Come Join PANA

Pennsylvania Association of
Nurse Anesthetists



for it's Annual Spring Conference
April 7-9, 2006
The Hotel Hershey
Hershey, Pennsylvania
"Chocolatetown USA"

The PANA is once again welcoming you to attend the annual Spring Symposium at the Hotel Hershey. This program features a stimulating array of topics that are presented by both CRNAs and other speakers. The twenty hour program is intended to provide anesthesia providers with a review and update on the latest developments in the field of anesthesia, and to furnish current information on health care issues of concern to all anesthesia providers. View Presentations from Past Symposia.

Hotel information can be found at the Hotel Hershey web site. Room rates for this event have not been negotiated yet, so please stop back at the end of the winter for further information. When available, rooms MUST be booked directly through the Hotel Hershey. PANA Online resources include PDF and PowerPoint files.

Stop back at info@pana.org later this winter for more information on registering for this exciting event! You may also register for the event on-site, the weekend of the meeting for a moderately increased registration fee. Please plan on attending.

PANA's Cancellation Policy

There is a \$50 administrative fee for any cancellations. NO refunds for cancellation one week prior to meeting.

Contact Information:

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists
234 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
800-495-7262 800-495-7262
Email: info@pana.org



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