
FALL CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

Kudos to Liz Galvin and all the members of the Program Committee who put together the excellent conference held at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth earlier this month. Approximately 90 attendees heard speakers who presented exceptional content, poster presenters who introduced evidence-based clinical research, and opportunities for colleagues to interact and share ideas. For the Annual Assembly, President Kathy Kacynski presented information about the status of the organization and Karen Brown-Fackler and her Nominating Committee developed a ballot presented by Jennifer Paul, that will contribute to the continued growth of RN-AIM. The new Officers elected after the Assembly include: Sue Meeker as the President-elect; Kristin Paulson as the Recording Secretary and Karen Austin as the Treasurer.

INVOICES HAVE BEEN SENT FOR ANNUAL RENEWALS

Consistent Due Date: As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Board of Directors has changed the date for renewal of dues to October 1 for all members. If you have not already received your invoice it will be arriving shortly. If you have paid dues in 2009, your invoice will be prorated reflecting the number of months for which you have already paid toward your yearly dues. For example, if you paid dues in April of 2009, you would be invoiced for 6 months, or half-year dues, which would make you current until October of 2010. This would hold true for all categories of members. If you did not pay dues during 2009, then paying dues with the invoice you receive in October 2009, will make your membership active until October 2010.

Up to Date Membership Information: For individuals who have not paid dues in 2009, one reminder will be sent by November 30, and if dues are not paid by January 1, 2010, the individual's name and information will be removed from the membership list. This procedure will allow us to identify all individuals

who have lapsed dues but wish to remain members of RN-AIM. Individuals who paid dues in 2009 and who have received their prorated renewal statement are asked to pay dues by January 1, 2010.

Survey: Lifetime members and individuals who renewed in September or October of 2009, will not receive invoices, but will be sent the survey that is being sent to other members with their invoices. As explained at the Annual Assembly, it is important for the organization to know the practice sites and specialty clinical skills of our members especially related to any health care advocacy that RN-AIM might engage in with policy-makers.

Increased Efficiency: These decisions were made to simplify accounting and to help the Board determine the funding RN-AIM will have available for the coming year, and provide us with a much clearer picture of who we are and what knowledge and skills are reflected in the membership.

Defensive Documentation

The Nurses Services Organization (NSO) newsletter may be of interest to members, and can be viewed at newsletter@nso.com. The current issue discusses the issues of how documentation can reflect the quality of the care you provide, and how effective charting can provide a primary defense in the case of alleged malpractice. The entire article is available at the website and the next issue will

address “Family Presence During Emergencies.” Past issues have discussed the importance of completing incident reports when appropriate, case studies of legal issues and other information that nurses can utilize to protect themselves and their patients.

Other Websites to Check Out

If you haven't already subscribed to the Michigan League for Human Services website: www.milhs.org, I highly recommend that you do. Regular updates on budget issues, health care reform, recent legislation dealing with health and many other concerns are addressed. It's an excellent source of information for what's happening in Lansing and how legislative actions can affect nursing practice and patient care.

If you have interest in maternal and child health, make sure that you subscribe to www.mcmch.org, the website for the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health. In addition to information focused on these populations, you will also find state budget updates, information about upcoming meetings and conferences for health professionals and the availability of special practice materials such as the newly released “Health IT for Children Toolbox” that provides information about integrating technology into promoting pediatric health and well-being.

And one more...don't forget to subscribe to the Michigan Health Council website (www.mhc.org) for updates from the Michigan Center for Nursing. Carole Stacy and her staff produce a monthly newsletter that will help you keep abreast of activities related to nursing practice. The current issue presents information about 2010 as the Year of the Nurse, as designated by Sigma Theta Tau International, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth and the practice of nursing worldwide.

THE Michigan Primary Care Consortium

The Michigan Primary Care Consortium has prepared a four-part White Paper series titled “Primary Care in Crisis.” The four papers were developed to demonstrate the importance of primary care for Michigan citizens, and as a call to action to preserve and revitalize the primary health care system in Michigan. The sequence of papers is as follows:

- Paper One describes the value of primary care in terms of improved health, quality of care and lowered health costs.
- Paper Two describes the current status of primary care practice, addresses the patient-centered model of delivering health care, examines issues related to payment reform, and what will be required to transform primary care practice in Michigan.
- Paper Three addresses patient/consumer education and self-advocacy, health literacy and use of the internet, patient-provider relationships and motivational interviewing.
- Paper Four examines the causes of primary care workforce shortages including physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and discusses rebuilding the primary care workforce through professional education, training, recruitment and retention.

The four papers can be found at www.mipcc.org/PriorityProject/index.cfm. The website also contains information about how to become involved in the implementation groups planned to address the issues raised in the White Papers.

And the musings . . .

In the October 15 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, two authors discuss the findings of the upcoming Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Synthesis Project" report, which will be released later in 2009, addressing a variety of care management programs which seek to reduce health care costs while at the same time enhancing quality of care for individuals with complex health care needs.

The report identifies that successful health care management includes: "...working with patients and their families to develop a care plan, teaching patients about their diseases and medications, coaching them on how to respond to worsening symptoms in order to avoid emergency department visits, and more."

Sound like nursing? Sound like your practice? I certainly hope so. Nurses are the most well-equipped and likely professionals to provide the components of successful health care management raised by the "Synthesis Project" report. We are there at the bedside, in the clinic, in the office, in the home...listening to concerns, identifying options for solving problems, helping patients and families make the adaptations they need to successfully manage disease and maintain maximum function. Nursing is the key!

We are working on our website. Please send suggestions to nurse@rn-aim.org.

As always, if you have suggestions for articles or topics, please submit them to me at nurse@rn-aim.org or ScoblicM@comcast.net – *Mary Scoblic, Editor*