Titling Issues: The Doctor of Nursing Practice a Unified Statement

The NP Roundtable released its first statement about DNP Education, Certification and Titling: A Unified Statement. The Nurse Practitioner Roundtable is a coalition of nurse practitioner organizations formed to collaborate, unify, and address issues of importance to nurse practitioners. The NP Roundtable is currently composed of seven organizations including American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse Practitioners, Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health.

-Margaret Fitzgerald, DNP, FNP-BC, NP-C, FAANP, CSP

NURSE PRACTITIONER DNP EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION AND TITLING: A UNIFIED STATEMENT

DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice)

1. Nurse practitioner education prepares graduates to provide safe, high quality, cost-effective, coordinated, and comprehensive clinical care grounded in evidence-based practice. Strategies of care include advocacy for individuals and groups, decision making related to personal health, mobilization of resources, therapeutics (pharmacologic/nonpharmacologic), health education and counseling, coordination of services, and evaluation of treatment outcomes.

2. Nurse practitioner education builds on the strong disciplinary foundations of the sciences, as well as the art and science of nursing, which includes health promotion, disease prevention and the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic illness.

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FHEA Offer of the Month

10% Off– Screening and Intervention for Domestic Violence

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Upcoming NP Certification Exam Review Courses

8/4/2008 Nashville, TN (Includes Acute)
8/9/2008 Oak Brook, IL
9/3/2008 No. Andover, MA
9/10/2008 Manhattan, NY
9/12/2008 Atlanta, GA
9/15/2008 Philadelphia, PA (Includes Acute)
9/15/2008 Toronto, ON*
9/15/2008 London, ON*
9/15/2008 Oshawa, ON*
9/15/2008 Kingston, ON*
9/17/2008 Houston, TX
9/25/2008 Orlando, FL

Who We Are...

Fitzgerald Health Education Associates, Inc. is an NP-owned company dedicated to helping nurse practitioners and advanced practice nurses achieve certification through review courses and to help healthcare providers maintain professional competence by providing live continuing education seminars, web and computer based learning courses, audio/video learning modules and books. The Fitzgerald Nurse Practitioner Certification Exam Review and Advanced Practice Update Course has helped more than 45,000 NPs nationwide achieve certification and improve their clinical assessment skills since its inception in 1988.
For years the Olympic Games have exemplified the countless differences that make our world diverse, yet they have also shown us the many similarities we all share. Athletes face constant struggles and judgments because their every move is broadcasted and scrutinized. Ultimately, athletes are dependent on the support of their coaches, families and spectators. Just as the Olympic athlete thrives with the support of family, friends, community and sponsors to compete successfully, breastfeeding mothers also require support to reach their breastfeeding goals. Each year World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated at the beginning of August. The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) calls for increased support for mothers striving to achieve the gold standard of infant feeding: to exclusively breastfeed their infants for the first six months, and continue breastfeeding together with complimentary foods up to 2 years and beyond. In order to reach this goal, however, a mother must have support from many different sources.

To the athlete, it is essential to have objectives; these are met through training, diet and discipline. Breastfeeding mothers also require goals, and during the World Breastfeeding Week this fact is recognized. This year’s objectives are:

- “To expand awareness of the need for and the value of providing support to a breastfeeding mother
- To disseminate updated information about support for breastfeeding mothers
- To encourage the creation of optimal conditions for the provision of mother support in all circles of support” (WABA, 2008).

These goals are designed to promote the practice of breastfeeding, but they are also intended to broaden the support network for breastfeeding mothers. These objectives go a long way toward reaffirming a mother’s decision to breastfeed.

Mothers face numerous challenges when it comes to breastfeeding, including, misinformation regarding breastfeeding, maintaining breastfeeding after returning to work, coping with emergency situations, and self-doubting their own ability to provide milk for their child. The support these breastfeeding mothers require ranges from professional support from a health care team, to community affirmation through parent-to-parent groups and volunteers. But perhaps the most important and often overlooked source of support comes from you. Your own belief that breastmilk is the golden start for infants will have a positive impact on mothers who nurse. A friendly smile or words of encouragement to these women can be invaluable.

Support is crucial for both athletes and mothers. To the athlete, the support from people close to them is imperative, but the (continued on page 4)
3. Nurse practitioners use knowledge across disciplines to determine the current best evidence to provide quality primary and specialty care services to clients.

4. Current master’s and higher degree nurse practitioner programs prepare fully accountable clinicians to provide care to well individuals, patients with undifferentiated symptoms, and those with acute, complex chronic and/or critical illnesses. The DNP degree more accurately reflects current clinical competencies and includes preparation for the changing health care system. It is congruent with the intense rigorous education for nurse practitioners. This evolution is comparable to the clinical doctoral preparation for other health care professions.

5. While all health care professions draw on shared knowledge and learning opportunities, nurse practitioners have a distinct body of knowledge and unique competencies.

Certification

1. Certification is a method by which professional knowledge and skills are evaluated through rigorous and psychometrically sound examination processes.

2. Certification examinations for nurse practitioners are based upon sound scientific principles of advanced nursing practice and knowledge. These examinations are developed from the discipline of nursing and do not draw from another discipline’s examination or examination mechanism.

3. Accredited, psychometrically sound nurse practitioner certification examinations are currently used to evaluate competency within a specified population focus.

4. Psychometrically sound examinations are based on role delineation studies conducted on a regular basis to determine the test blueprint for a given professional discipline.

5. Through the utilization of appropriate psychometric processes, current certification examinations will evolve with changes in the nurse practitioner body of knowledge and practice.

6. PhD, DNSc, DNP, MSN are credentials that represent academic degrees earned by individuals when they successfully complete the requisite course of study. An academic degree is not a role. Certification examinations test the competencies of the role and not the degree. It is not appropriate to attempt to validate an academic degree with a certification examination. Any certification examination at the degree level would be too broad to determine the knowledge and skills that are applicable to the roles or specialties associated with the roles.

7. The seamless transition from the masters to doctoral preparation for nurse practitioner practice does not require additional testing beyond nurse practitioner certification to measure competency to practice.

Utilization of the Title “Doctor” by Nurse Practitioners

1. The title “Doctor” represents an academic credential, and is not limited to professional programs. Graduate educational programs in colleges and universities in the United States confer academic degrees, which permit graduates to be called “doctor.” No one discipline owns the title “doctor.”

In the health care field, the term doctor is not limited to medical doctors. Other health care professions use their academic title: e.g. Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Pharmacy, Doctor of Podiatry, Doctor of Psychology, Doctor of Physical Therapy and others.

3. While the titles “Medical Doctor” or “Doctor of Osteopathy” may be title protected by statute in a given state, the term “doctor” alone is not.

4. Recognition of the title, “Doctor,” for doctorally prepared nurse practitioners facilitates parity within the health care system.

Notice of System Maintenance for Testing & Learning Site

Routine maintenance is scheduled for August 16th, 2008. FHEA is committed to providing our customers maximum uptime, reliability, and security for our On-line Testing and Learning Site.

Regular system maintenance is critical to achieving this goal. System maintenance is normally performed the 3rd Saturday of each month.
(Going for the Gold: continued from page 2)

recognition from a fan-base is also valuable because though an athlete has many reasons for competing, the ultimate goal is to be recognized and valued.

Similarly, the support-network for a mother has many parts; however, other than family and friends most of the acknowledgment mothers require comes from professionals and lay persons. These two facets of the support-team serve different purposes; professionals, for example, are found to extend the duration of breastfeeding, while lay support have a greater positive influence on exclusive breastfeeding. These two components help make up part of the support structure for mothers who nurse.

Professional and lay support only make up a fraction of the support team for a new mother. In recognition of this fact, WABA represents the support network for mothers in the form of a symbol. Much like the Olympic symbol, WABA’s emblem is made up of five colored circles overlapping, interacting and strengthening each other. WABA envisions women in a center circle surrounded by rings of support from health care, family and social network, workplace and employment, response to crisis or emergency, and government/legislation. All of these components overlapping form a symbol of strength and support.

When it comes to a support system, the sum is only as strong as its parts. The WABA emblem illustrates how each ring is central to the overall strength of the symbol. Family and Social Networks are imperative to breastfeeding mothers because a strong network of positive influence with breastfeeding will provide the new mother with the confidence needed to succeed. The Health Care system provides evidence-based care regarding best health choices for mothers and their infants, including education, and skills necessary for breastfeeding. Government and Legislation provide stepping stones through laws and policies that support women’s choices to breastfeed. The workplace is a place in which support is imperative. And finally, Response to Crisis or Emergency is important because these are the times that a mother may find her choice to breastfeed evolves from one of nurturing to one of survival. In the case of natural disaster or war, social agencies are established to provide mothers with items they need including, food, water, and clothing. Women also may need to cope with family crisis related to divorce or health. Supporting a mother during periods of increased stress or separation from her infant is valuable. When all of these pieces of the puzzle come together, they strengthen and reaffirm a mother’s goals.

When you think of an Olympic athlete and a breastfeeding mother, you may not see the immediate connection between them. Though both face different challenges they share a need for support from many different sources in order to reach their goals. Just as the Olympic torch passes through countries, support for breastfeeding mothers must shine through in everyday life throughout the world. Helping to create and sustain a comfortable and healthy atmosphere for a mother and child will create and sustain a healthy generation of people for years to come. So this August, when it comes to an Olympic athlete or a breastfeeding mother, just remember your support counts.

Sources:
www.ilca.org
www.waba.org.my/

Need a Speaker?
If you are interested in having Margaret or one of our other talented associates speak at your school, local, regional or national conference, please e-mail june@fhea.com for more information. Conference administrative services are also available.
B.C. Boasts 100 Nurse Practitioners
RNws with Masters Degrees Allowed to do More for Patients
By Pamela Fayerman, Vancouver Sun
Published: Thursday, July 24, 2008

The province has hit a milestone with 100 nurse practitioners now at work caring for patients, three years since the first class graduated. Nurse practitioners, who are registered nurses with two years additional training at the masters degree level, can diagnose, order tests, treat patients and prescribe most medications, although not those that might be addictive, such as narcotics for pain. Joanne Przystawka of Kamloops, one of the new nurse practitioners, explained in an interview Wednesday that, while she is independent, she sees her role as a collaborative effort with family doctors. "I'm not a replacement for the doctor; I'm part of the team," she said. "One of the things I do a lot of is Pap smears. Female patients like to come to see me at our monthly or bi-monthly Well Women's Clinic during which time they can get their Pap smears, breasts examined and other screening, and it is something they clearly prefer to do with a female health professional."

Przystawka was an NP working in small native communities in Ontario before moving to B.C. in 2001. Once here, she had to go through the process of becoming registered as an NP all over again. She now has the knowledge, competency and skill to do about three-quarters of what family doctors do, but the most complex cases are still left to the doctors in her office. Przystawka receives her $90,000 salary plus benefits from the Interior Health Region. The provincial government gave $80 million to all health authorities last year to hire NPs and expand their role in the health care system. NPs, who are licensed and regulated by the College of Registered Nurses of B.C., are now working in all regions of the province, said Lorine Scott, president of the B.C. Nurse Practitioner Association. But they still only make up a tiny fraction of the 41,000 nurses in the province. At St. Paul's Hospital, NP Carol Gault works with complex cardiac patients, including those who have survived heart attacks and the elderly, indigent or mentally ill who have heart problems. "I'm like the quarterback for their care," she said, adding, "Nurse practitioners aren't allowed to admit or discharge hospital patients, but while they are here, I can prescribe their medications and tend to their day-to-day care."

B.C. was one of the last provinces in Canada to include NPs in its health care system, according to Natasha Prodan-Bhalla, immediate past-president of the nurse practitioners association. "But we're making up for lost time now as we have the widest scope of practice in the country while at the same time having the most rigorous oral and written exams." After working in the post-operative area of the cardiac surgery department at St. Paul's Hospital for a few years, Prodan-Bhalla just started a new job at B.C. Women's Hospital, where she is developing a new heart health program, designed for women with, or at risk of, heart disease.

In a statement Wednesday, Health Minister George Abbott said NPs are filling a number of important roles in the system. He expects the three B.C. universities offering the program, the University of B.C., the University of Victoria and the University of Northern B.C., to graduate 45 NPs each year.

Sun Health Issues Reporter

NP Info mailing list:
NPInfo@nurse.net
http://lists.nurse.net/mailman/listinfo/npinfo

Editor's Note:
Fitzgerald Health Education would like to recognize the accomplishment of our British Columbia colleagues in reaching this milestone. Coincidentally as noted elsewhere in this newsletter, FHEA is offering four NP Certification Review courses in Ontario, Canada this Fall and plan to continue to offer courses in BC next year. We look forward to supporting the growth of the NP profession in Canada.
## Margaret Fitzgerald’s Upcoming Speaking Engagements

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| 8/11 & 8/12/08 | Retail Clinician Education Congress           | - Getting Certified: Issues for the new and practicing NP  
- Drug Update: What is hot, what is not  
- Antimicrobial Update: The latest guidelines in the treatment of respiratory tract infections |
| 9/6/08     | Heartland Advanced Practice Nurses Network Annual Conference | - Ups & Downs of Thyroid Care: Challenging Case Studies in Laboratory Diagnosis  
- The Highs & Lows of Depression: A Primary Care Approach to Assessment and Intervention  
- Commonly Used Herbal Remedies, Vitamin, and Mineral Therapies: Issues of Efficacy and Safety |
| 9/12/08    | UAPRN of Macon, GA                            | - HPV, CA-MRSA, Avian Flu, Pertussis and More: Preventing and Treating emerging infectious disease threats  
- Role of Inflammatory Process in Disease States  
- Now What? Puzzling Diagnostic Case Studies in Primary Care Practice |
| 9/26/08    | Texas NP Conference                           | - Keynote: Future of NP Practice                                                                                   |
| 10/01/08   | LWW Nursing Management Congress 2008          | - Collaboration between Nurse Managers and Advance Practice Clinicians                                            |
| 10/03/08   | Pacific Northwest 31st Annual National Conference | - Keynote: Hot Topics in NP Practice: Opportunities and Pitfalls                                                    |
| 10/04/08   | Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners- Central Chapter 5th Annual Fall Conference | - Challenging Cases in Laboratory Diagnosis: Focus on Hepatic Disorders  
- Challenging Cases in Laboratory Diagnosis: Focus on Thyroid Disorders |
| 10/17/08   | Nurse Practitioners of Oregon 31st Annual Educational Conference | - Hot Topics in Drug Therapy: New products, new uses, new warning  
- Role of Inflammatory Process in Disease States |
| 10/20/08   | FHEA Comprehensive Clinical Pharmacology Course (6 Days) | - Check www.fhea.com for more information                                                                       |
| 10/23-24/08 | Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners Conference - 14th Annual Reed Center | - HPV, CA-MRSA, Avian Flu, Pertussis and More: Preventing and treating emerging infectious disease threats  
- Hot Topics in Drug therapy: New products, new uses and new warnings |
| 10/25/08   | Hackensack University Medical Center Annual APN Conference | - Keynote: Hot Topics in APN Practice  
- Depression and Anxiety in Women: the finer points of assessment and treatment                                  |
| 11/07/08   | Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, 6th Annual PACNP Conference | - Worst Case Scenario: Uncommon outcomes in common diseases  
- Special Considerations in Geriatric Prescribing: Issues of safety and efficacy                                      |