



# NNA News You Can Use

The Voice of Nursing in Nevada

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 1, 2009

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- October 20—Party for ANA President, Becky Patton, in Las Vegas
- October 21—District 1 Annual Meeting—6:00-6:30 p.m. at Artisan's (formerly Remedee's)
- October 21—Legislative Meet & Greet—6:30-8:30 p.m. at Artisan's (formerly Remedee's)
- October 24—NNA Annual Meeting—9 a.m.-12 noon—Teleconference in Las Vegas and Carson City
- March 19—District 1 Annual Conference, 8-4:00 —Saint Mary's Center for Health & Fitness—3rd floor auditorium

## NNA Annual State Meeting October 24



The NNA Annual State Meeting will be held October 24, 2009, from 9-12 AM. The meeting will be held by video

conference at two locations:  
 1. Carson City Western Nevada College, 2201 W. College Parkway Reynolds Bldg, Room 101, Carson City, NV  
 2. Las Vegas

Area Health Education Center of So. Nevada, 3014 W. Charleston Blvd, Suite 150 Las Vegas, NV 89102, Training room.  
 Please plan to attend.

## NNA District One Legislative Meet & Greet and Annual Meeting

When you listen to the news in the evening, do you sometimes find yourself saying, "Why did they do that? Don't they know...?" NNA invites you to attend this Legislative "Meet and Greet" & Reception, where you can ask the legislators your questions and explain your professional concerns and issues.

The NNA Legislative Meet & Greet, which will be held on October 21, 2009, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Artisan's Conference Room at Renown Regional Medical Center, will provide

healthcare professionals from multiple disciplines and Nevada lawmakers an opportunity to meet and discuss topics of importance outside the high-pressure atmosphere of the Legislative session.

Here are some good reasons to attend:

- Meet your legislators.
- Express to them your concerns and ideas for future legislative issues.
- Help to shape the future NNA legislative agenda.
- Offer your knowledge as a resource for your legislators.

Join us for this important event. Please RSVP to Kathy ryank006@hotmail.com.

An NNA membership meeting will be held immediately before the Legislative Meet and Greet, from 6:00-6:30 p.m. The goal of the meeting will be to inform members about the legislative process. Attendees will discuss topics which can or should be addressed in 2011 and learn how to discuss them with the legislators.

Non-NNA members are welcome.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Electronic News Opportunities	2
NSBN & NNA to Co-sponsor Legislation Supporting APN Independent Practice	2
Las Vegas Conference to Present Latest in Women's Sexual Health	2
NNA Statement on Medical Assistants in Nevada	3
More Stories of Interest	3
Legislative Update	4
FDA Alerts & Advisories	4
H1N1 Vaccinations to Start Arriving in October	4

## Note to Nursing Educators

All nursing students who sign up through ANA website nursingworld.org will receive from NNA till graduations:

1. The electronic "News You Can Use" newsletter
2. May critique the legislative committee meeting, but cannot vote
3. May participate in district, regional activities as desired.
4. Receive the "RNFormation" newsletter quarterly by mail

## Electronic News Opportunities



Follow NNA on  
Twitter at  
NVNursesAssoc

Would you rather receive updates on what is happening more frequently than once a month? Do you need a point of contact reference for your phone? Check out these sources:

- You can now follow NNA news on Twitter at NVNursesAssoc.
- Medscape Nurses is offering free CEUs on you iPod or iPhone. More information is available at [http://www.medscape.com/public/iphone/nurses?src=iph\\_int\\_email\\_NURS\\_mcsp\\_cme&uac=127238BT](http://www.medscape.com/public/iphone/nurses?src=iph_int_email_NURS_mcsp_cme&uac=127238BT).
- Many federal agencies use Twitter communications, including FDA alerts & recalls, **NIH, Office of Women's Health**,
- Medscape Mobile drug reference is a free download for your iPod or iPhone. Download at [http://www.medscape.com/public/iphone/ghfa?iph\\_int\\_email\\_NURS\\_mcsp\\_faster](http://www.medscape.com/public/iphone/ghfa?iph_int_email_NURS_mcsp_faster)

## NSBN & NNA to Co-sponsor Legislation Supporting APN Independent Practice

EXCITING NEWS! During the NSBN hearings today, the Board moved with a unanimous vote to allow Board Staff (Debra Scott) to work together with NNA to propose and co-sponsor legislation in the upcoming session changes in the Nevada Nurse Practice Act to remove the requirement of an APN to collaborate with a physician thereby allowing for Independent Practice for APNs in Nevada. We will also be reaching out to other nursing organizations with APN members for their input.

The Nursing Board was very supportive and enthusiastic about this proposal and about NNA and NSBN working together. Doreen Begley brought up the point that it was NNA who pushed to have a regulatory board for nursing in Nevada and she is glad to see us coming together after all of these years.

The Board was again very supportive and happy about the work NNA has done in support of nursing.

Send your  
Comments or  
announcements of  
upcoming events  
for publication in  
“**News You Can  
Use**” to  
[nvnursesasn@mvg  
n.net](mailto:nvnursesasn@mvg.n.net).

## Las Vegas Conference to Present Latest in Women's Sexual Health

The American Urological Association (AUA) will present *Sexual Medicine: Management of Female Sexual Dysfunction*, December 4–5 at the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas. This course offers a unique opportunity for nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants **to join urologists in learning the latest advances in the treatment of women's sexual health**. This course will provide attendees with the basic science principles and a rational, step-care clinical paradigm to better care for their patients with sexual dysfunction. The course will also cover the latest diagnostic and management strategies, including pelvic floor physical therapy, pharmacologic treatments (hormonal and non-hormonal) and surgical management. For more information, visit [www.AUANet.org/FSDVegas](http://www.AUANet.org/FSDVegas).

The Ritz-Carlton, Lake of Las Vegas, will be the site of **Women's Sexual Health Conference**



## NNA Statement on Medical Assistants in Nevada

The NEVADA NURSES ASSOCIATION (NNA) has been asked to comment on the recent restrictions and questions presented regarding Medical Assistants in Nevada. Last week, the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners released new regulation which increased the amount of supervision required and specified certain limitations on the functions allowed by Medical Assistants in Nevada.

Most notably, Medical Assistants are restricted from administering Botox, Chemotherapy, Anesthetics and other potentially harmful medications to patients. These medications may only be administered by nurses, physicians and other licensed healthcare professionals in Nevada.

The greatest concern for the Nevada Nurses Association is patient safety when it comes to the healthcare delivery system in Nevada. The Nevada State Board of Nursing regulates all Professional

Nurses, Advanced Practice Nurses, Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants in Nevada. Nursing regulation includes criminal background checks, fingerprinting, verification of education and other requirements for licensure. The Nevada Nurse Practice Act and Practice Decisions clearly define the scope of practice for each discipline in Nursing.

In the interest of patient safety, NNA would like to clarify that Medical Assistants are not Nurses and they do not fall under Nursing Regulation. Medical Assistants are not licensed by any regulatory board in Nevada and there are no mandatory prerequisites to work as a Medical Assistant in Nevada. Background checks and education verification for Medical Assistants are merely subject to employer discretion.

In general, Medical Assistants work under the direction and supervision of **Physicians and Physician's**

Assistants. While some Medical Assistants have taken courses or certified programs to learn certain skills, many are trained on the job to perform certain functions for the physician in clinics and other healthcare facilities throughout Nevada.

NNA believes it is most important for patient-consumers to be aware exactly who is caring for them in any healthcare setting. While it is common practice for some facilities to refer to their supportive **staff as "nurses," Medical Assistants are not Nurses. Referring to non-nursing personnel as "Nurses" is an illegal and dangerous practice which leads to confusion and unrealistic expectations by patients.**

Medical Assistants have been an integral part of the healthcare system in Nevada for many years. The Nevada Nurses Association recognizes the supportive role of Medical Assistants in Nevada and supports regulation that ensures public safety.

**"The greatest concern for the Nevada Nurses Association is patient safety..."**

NNA  
NEWS  
YOU CAN  
USE

## More Stories of Interest

The House Health Reform Bill, HR 3200 is available online in an audio version. The entire Healthcare Reform bill has been read into an MP3 file that can be downloaded or simply listened to on your computer. Go to <http://hearthebill.org> and click on 'HR 3200 Audio'. The bill can also be downloaded in PDF format.

\*\*\*\*\*

Teaming up with top hospitals and health systems

across the country to use new methods to find the causes of and put a stop to dangerous and potentially deadly breakdowns in patient care, The Joint Commission is launching the Center for Transforming Healthcare. The **Center's first initiative is tackling hand washing failures that contribute to health care-associated infections that kill nearly 100,000 Americans each year and cost U.S. hospitals \$4**

billion to \$29 billion annually to combat. For more information, visit <http://www.centerfortransforminghealthcare.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Saint Mary's Regional

Medical Center will present the 12th Annual Autumn in the Sierra Concepts in Perinatal Care on October 14, 15, & 16. For more information, call Kimberly Cooper (775) 770-6337.



**Saint Mary's**  
presents  
Concepts in  
Perinatal  
Care.

# Legislative Update

The months of September is usually a slow month for the NNA legislative committee, but believe 11/09 will go down as one of the busiest. Problems and concerns have surfaced that had a direct and indirect effect on nursing or patient care that needed quick decision and in-depth discussion. The emails from committee members often were numerous; and often logical and deliberate with sound analysis and great debates among the committee member. This venue is not the place to present the pros and cons on each issue, but will give a quick over view and current status.

Technology Health Task Force was created by the Governor and it was noted no nurse was listed as a member. **The Governor's office received a letter and phone call** (a list of two RNs with the credential for the task force) and request to consider adding one to the

Task Force.

NNA board decided to support two, Lisa Black (committee member) and Cheryl Blomstrom (NNA Lobbyist) to attend the special legislative conference in WDC. Sadly Cheryl was ill just before and could not attend. Lisa will report on the conference at the Oct 1 meeting

Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association (NIAA) degreed that only physicians could do sports physicals. This would prevent PAs and APNs from performing this needed service and place a huge burden on physicians as well as the schools, students and families. NNA gather data, forces and APNs addressed their concerns to the NIAA board and a decision is pending

Whistle Blower legislation is severely being challenged in Texas and is being closely monitored.

NNA was asked to comment on the recent restriction of the legal status and supervision requirements for Medical Assistants. NNA formatted a press release that stated our main concern was patient safety. It is important for nurses to become aware of all the issues on the regulations of MA (See NNA press release).

Reminder: Any member of NNA can become a member of the legislative committee. Our next meetings is Oct 21 (normally only once a month) at 7 pm All meetings are via teleconference where you can join in on the conversation from any phone at no cost to you. Members will receive email updates and share opinions via emails.

Contact Co-chairs if you wish to become a member: Martha Drohobyczer: marthadrohobyczer@yahoo.com

Betty Razor: etbetty@sbcglobal.net



## **"FDA Patient**

**Safety News**  
(PSN) is a monthly video news show for healthcare professionals."

## FDA Alerts & Information

- [FDA requires boxes warning on Promethazine hydrochloride injection warning of the risk of serious tissue injury when administered incorrectly.](#)
- [A class 1 recall of Lifepak CR Plus Automated External Defibrillators due to failure or delay in delivery of therapy.](#)
- [Smith's Medical announced that it is initiating a nationwide voluntary recall of Portex® Uncuffed Pediatric-Sized Tracheal Tubes \(sizes 2.5, 3.0 and 3.5 mm\) manufactured before September 2009.](#)
- [Penumbra Neuron 5F catheter recalled due to defect which may result in brain blood clot and blood vessel puncture](#)
- [FDA notified healthcare professionals of a Class I recall of Pedi-Cap End-Tidal CO<sub>2</sub> Detector \(Pedi-Cap and Pedi-Cap 6\), because the device may increase the resistance of the flow of air into the lungs, resulting in ineffective ventilation and the inability to verify the correct placement of a breathing tube when inserting it into the windpipe.](#)
- FDA Patient Safety News (PSN) is a monthly video news show for healthcare professionals. It covers significant safety alerts, recalls, new product approvals, and

offers important tips on protecting patients. Read the complete stories and watch or download the video program at <http://www.fda.gov/psn>.

- [FDA notified healthcare professionals that it has completed its analysis of tumor necrosis factor \(TNF\) blockers and has concluded that there is an increased risk of lymphoma and other cancers associated with the use of these drugs in children and adolescents.](#)

This is a limited listing of FDA alerts and information. For a complete list, please visit [MedWatch](#).

# H1N1 Vaccinations to Start Arriving in October

US Health Officials report that H1N1 vaccine will begin arriving in **doctors' offices in early October.**

When vaccine is first available, ACIP recommends that programs and providers administer vaccine to persons in the following five target groups (order of target groups does

not indicate priority):

- pregnant women,
- persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and day-care providers),
- health-care and emergency medical services personnel,§
- persons aged 6 months--24 years, and
- persons aged 25--64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.



H1N1 virus