



No. 36

**OCTOBER 2010
CNY SGNA Newsletter**

**Central New York Society of
Gastroenterology Nurses and
Associates.
Region 37.**

President's Message:

As we continue to look forward toward the future and the winding down of 2010, we evaluate accomplishments and opportunities of ones unwritten future.

We, CNYSGNA, have continuing goals for the remainder of 2010. First we invite all of our members to the biannual conference in Elmira. During such educational events, there are numerous opportunities. One of networking with others through New York state; One of the ability to have direct contact with, and time to talk with vendors regarding their products; And greatest of all, is the participation in your regional SGNA society. You, as a member, have a voice in the decision making of CNYSGNA. If you do not attend the meetings, you do not have an understanding of the direction and opportunities, which as a member of CNYSGNA you hold.

I strongly encourage CNYSGNA members to attend this meeting. It is usually only 15-20 minutes in length. At the end of the meeting, there is a drawing for those members who DO attend, to win a free scholarship to one of the CNYSGNA conferences in the next year. It's a win win opportunity!

Also as for tuition for CNYSGNA members, we offer a \$1000 scholarship for the national conference, for those who qualify. Application and criteria are on the CNYSGNA website. Deadline for applications are January 31, 2011. This year's conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. For details of the conference as they become available, go to the national SGNA website.

I encourage our CNYSGNA members to visit our website for upcoming events and networking opportunities of CNYSGNA. The only way one can prepare for the future is to seek out opportunities, be ready for when they arise, and grab them. The rewards can be surprising. Therefore, I strongly suggest, for those who are not CNYSGNA members, to become members to be part of a fantastic organization with built in support and networking of the same specialty. And for those who are members, CONGRATULATION in the first step in a long and amazing journey with SGNA. Once you become a member, certification is the only logical next step. Be recognized for who you are and be proud of the specialty and knowledge you own.

I look forward to sharing the journey with you. So far my journey of 19 years has been full of

amazing memories and the knowledge from others worth even more.

Babette Clapper, RN, CGRN

Membership: 150

Fall Meeting:

Janet Shope 607-737-4216 (W)
607-734-6997 (H)

Editor's Note:

Hello Central NY.

**Please vote. Deadline is
Oct. 12, 2010, midnight.**

www.cnysgna.org

I hope that you are planning on going to the Fall conference in Elmira. If you have not heard Dr. Patricia Raymond speak, you are in for a fun and funny conference. Dr. Raymond is a gastroenterologist with a great sense of humor. She is speaking on "Ms Butt Meddler and the Colonoscopy Tour". She kind of looks like Bette. Let me know if you think the talk "was a gas". There is still time to register for the conference. Give Janet Shope a call at 607-737-4216 or go online at www.cnysgna.org and register. Note that the conference is at Hill Top Inn on Saturday, Oct. 16. (888-444-5586).

Friday night, at the Holiday Inn Elmira Riverview (607-734-4211) there are Hors d'Oeuvres and a talk "Marginal Ulcers and Tight Strictures: Endoscopic complications related to anatomical changes post Bariatrics by Dr. G. Grijalva for one contact

hour. Try to make this and start the networking process.

Thank you to Janet Shope and her committee for the great program. **6.5 contact hours** for the Saturday program.

Please check the website frequently for any updates to CNY.

Gayle Millis will be **collecting old nursing magazines** at the Elmira conference. These are donated to nurses overseas.

We will again have the **SGNA marketplace offered**. You can order any items, without shipping costs. Check or charge card. This is a good time to order the Core, and start preparing for certification.

Jean Davis, our first CNYSGNA President passed away May 19, 2010. She will be sadly missed. We thank her for her forward thinking to start this organization.

Your next newsletter will be Dec. 15, 2010. Feel free to send any articles for submission. This could be a new procedure your doing, i.e. c. diff stool, helpful hints, benchmarking tools that you use. Maybe some reseach that you are starting on. Remember they count as points toward the scholarship. As Babette has said, deadline for application is January 31, 2010. Looking forward to seeing you in Elmira this weekend.

Barbara Schwant, BSN, RN, CGRN

NOLF Report

From Dr. Zittels office: State Ed Dept. Feb 2010

1. If nurse works more than 16 hours, there is a potential charge of unprofessional Conduct. She feels it is "Willful disregard for Patient Safety." Only Dept. of Health could bring up charges.
- 2 Nurse can delegate. If one refuses to do it, send a discipline report to her office, SED.
3. There are still some tweaks in the magnet and cautery use. Will send note as soon as I, B. Schwant have them.
4. See letter from NYS Board of Medicine re "**Utilization of Unlicensed Persons, such as Medical Assistants, in Clinical Settings and Private Medical Offices.**" (At end of newsletter.) This will remain on cnysgna website.

From Oct. 6, 2010 meeting:
Latest news: Institute of Medicine of National Academies delivered a statement on "Future of Nursing: A Public Brief Oct. 5, 2010. In it they said that Nursing should be a life long process. Nursing is critical to health care.
www.IOM.edu/nursing

The highlights from Donna Shalala:

1. Nurse should practice to their skill and education level.
2. There should be a seamless academic progression, (i.e. LPN/AD/BSN)
3. Full partners with physicians. Should be a "collaborative effort".
4. Workforce planning, data.

Check out www.NoHarmDone.org

Coalition for Advancement of Nursing Education (CANE) will continue to work toward all RN's start with BSN in 2019. All current RN's, including student nurses at that time would be grandfathered in the current process. As per our info session in April 2009 at Saratoga.

www.nysna.org for online educational opportunities. Mandatory Infection Control offered, \$25.

DATES:

OCT. 15-16 CNYSGNA Fall Conference

October 1-29, 2010 ABCGN Certification Exam

Oct. 29-30, 2010 SGNA Leadership Conference, Chicago.

November 2010 Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

March 23, 2011 GI Nurses Day

May 6-11, 2011 SGNA Annual Conference
Indianapolis, Indiana

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To: Interested Parties
From: Walter Ramos, Executive Secretary to the New York State Board for Medicine
Re: Utilization of Unlicensed Persons, such as Medical Assistants, in Clinical Settings and Private Medical Offices
Date: April, 2010

It has come to the attention of the Office of the Professions that a significant number of physicians' offices are utilizing medical assistants or other unlicensed persons to assist in the care of their patients. The Board for Medicine takes this opportunity to clarify the functions that can be performed by such unlicensed persons.

Section 6530 (11) of Education Law states that "permitting, aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to perform activities requiring a license" constitutes unprofessional conduct. Accordingly, medical tasks may only be delegated to persons who are authorized by law to perform the delegated task. The fact that an unlicensed person may be "competent" to perform the task does not confer the legal authorization to engage in an activity that is restricted to licensed persons. Licensed professionals, including physicians, who knowingly delegate a medical task to a person who is not legally authorized to perform such a task are guilty of professional misconduct.

Below is a list of tasks that can and cannot be performed by "medical assistants" or other unlicensed persons in New York State. The lists include those tasks that are frequently mentioned by practitioners in queries to the board offices. This of course, is not an exhaustive list. Practitioners may be called upon to make judgments about whether certain tasks, not mentioned in the list, may be delegated to an unlicensed person. In making those judgments practitioners with authority to order and/or delegate medical tasks should be guided by the principle that tasks that require the exercise of medical judgment and assessment, or tasks that are specifically restricted to licensed professionals, may not be delegated to "medical assistants" or otherwise unauthorized persons. Such tasks must be performed by licensed persons who, by virtue of their education and licensure, are presumed to possess the level of professional judgment and assessment skills that will ensure safe practice.

Tasks that can be performed by medical assistants or unlicensed persons include the following:

- secretarial work such as assembling charts or assisting with billing,
- measuring vital signs,
- performing ECGs,
- taking laboratory specimens including blood work,
- assisting an authorized practitioner, under the direct and personal supervision of said practitioner, to carry out a specific task, as a "second set of hands" (e.g. authorized practitioner, after positioning a limb, asks the medical assistant to maintain the limb in the position while a bandage is applied or sutures removed. Medical assistant could not independently position the patient.)

Tasks that cannot be performed by medical assistants or unlicensed persons include:

- triage,
- administering medications through any route,
- administering contrast dyes or injections of any kind,
- placing or removing sutures,
- taking x-rays or independently positioning patients for x-rays,
- applying casts,
- first assisting in surgical procedures.

The Board trusts that this information is helpful and urges you to assist your professional colleagues by disseminating this information. If we can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at the above listed address, by e-mail medbd@mail.nysed.gov or by telephone at 518-474-3817 ext. 560