Special Interest Groups

Chronic Kidney Disease

The SIG has been very busy working on several projects. The Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Fact Sheet was recently reviewed and revised to include the most current information about CKD. We also are in the process of writing a CKD position paper for ANNA. Another project being considered is a resource guide on CKD for the membership.

The CKD track sessions held at the ANNA Fall Meeting were a huge success. Most sessions were so full, there was standing room only! It is exciting to see how nephrology nursing is entering a new era as we deal with all aspects of CKD from early identification and referral of kidney disease to preservation of renal function, and address complications of renal disease appropriately prior to reaching end stage renal disease.

If you have any questions or would like to contact the SIG, you may share your questions/comments via the Forum on the ANNA Web site. (Go to www.annanurse.org, use your member login, go to Members Only, and click on The Forum.) You also may reach me at benavente123@aol.com.

Gladys Benavente
Chronic Kidney Disease SIG Leader
Saguaro Chapter

Pediatric

The SIG has been productive this year. Due to requests made by fellow ANNA members, our group was given the opportunity to develop pediatric specific topics for the 2007 National Symposium in Dallas. We submitted several topics to the planning committee for consideration. The planning committee then chose those topics that best fit into the theme of the upcoming National Symposium. The chosen topics are: Pediatric Pre/Post Transplant and Evaluation and Pediatric Health Related Quality of Life. The networking session at the National Symposium will be held on April 23. During this session, we will discuss Management of Pediatric Chronic Kidney Disease, Stages 1-5.

We also will host a session at the Annual Dialysis Conference in Denver in February 2007. The topic of this networking session will be Infant Dialysis. Currently, we are working on Module 5 of ANNA’s “What Every Nurse Should Know” series. This module will address CKD Pediatrics.

I would like to thank all the members of the SIG for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Members for 2006-07 year include: Amelia Allsteadt, Anthony DeJesus, Tamra Ehlts, Jeremy Horton, Pamela Koot, Angel Krueger, Nancy McAfee, Michelle Mills, Ann Moore, and Kimberly Windt.

Angel Krueger
Pediatric SIG Leader
Gulf Coast Chapter

Hemodialysis

The SIG is off to a robust start this year. Our networking sessions at the National Symposium in Nashville were well attended. We are excited that we added three new members to the SIG committee from the Enrichment Opportunity Event (EOE) at the conference. We completed our strategic plan for the upcoming year and look forward to opportunities to write for the Nephrology Nursing Journal and assist in the revision of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing. We will be revising the Hemodialysis Fact Sheet in the near future. We have two articles that are in the final stages prior to publication.

The SIG continues to meet monthly via conference call. We have explored many new and innovative ways to bring a greater awareness and increase the usage of the forums on the Web page. We are already planning for the networking session at the 2007 National Symposium in Dallas. We have added a couple of new members who are experts in the home hemodialysis program to the SIG committee, and we are planning a session on home hemodialysis.

For more information about the SIG, check us out on the ANNA Web site. Go to www.annanurse.org, click on Practice, and select Committees and SIGs.

Judy Kauffman
Hemodialysis SIG Leader
Central Virginia Chapter

Transplant

The transplant field is under more public and governmental scrutiny than ever before. On September 12, 2006, I was one of 380 phone participants in an Open Door Forum sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss transplant center compliance.

Traditional oversight relied on self-reporting by individual transplant centers and response to beneficiary complaints. CMS is reviewing all organ transplant programs to see if they meet minimum standards and plans to decertify those that are not in compliance. CMS has developed an action plan that will culminate in publication of a final rule (by the end of 2006 or the first half of 2007) for new transplant conditions of participation (CoPs). There are six main areas of concentration:

• improved data gathering and analysis of transplant;
• prompt and effective corrective action when serious problems are noted;
• ongoing complaint investigations that will include working more closely with the Health
Resources and Services Administrations (HRSA); • public outreach for information about transplant centers to help patients choose quality care (transplant arena more transparent to the public); and • working on survey and complaint investigations.

While the transplant community applauds these efforts, there are concerns about duplication of reporting of data to multiple agencies [Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network [OPTN], United Network for Organ Sharing [UNOS], HRSA, CMS] and the economics of having enough staff to meet the new requirements.

The SIG continues to evaluate proposed UNOS policy changes for ANNA comment.

We planned the SIG session for the 2007 National Symposium. As we did last year, we will discuss one current pre- and post-transplant topic that will be of interest to members practicing in transplantation.

Roberta Billman
Transplant SIG Leader
Big Apple Chapter

Administration

SIG members have been busy finalizing plans for two networking sessions at the National Symposium in Dallas. One will feature the presentation of the revised Clinical Ladder. The other session will focus on what clinical staff need to know about the billing process. We are excited about these two topics as professional development and billing were both listed on the needs survey that was completed by members at the Enrichment Opportunity Event last year.

We have been asked to "take ownership" of a management/administration column in the Nephrology Nursing Journal. Committee members will be working with journal editorial board members to develop this column into a regular feature that will be directed toward journal readers who work in the management arena.

A reminder to all ANNA members that the SIG committee monitors postings on the ANNA Forum on the Web site. If you have management related questions, please post them on the Forum. A SIG committee member will be monitoring the site each month to ensure that your question gets answered.

Karen Burwell
Administration SIG Leader
Central New York Chapter

Corporate/Government

The SIG will be hosting a networking session at the 2007 National Symposium in Dallas on Emergency Preparedness. Glenda Payne will be the moderator. Although the session is in the early stages of development, the goal is to educate ANNA members on strategies and tactics in preparing a plan that can be used by all members of the renal team.

Kathleen Kuchta
Corporate/Government SIG Leader
Windy City Chapter

Acute Care

ANNA’s Acute Care SIG was approved and established in 2005. About 10% of ANNA’s members identify themselves as acute care nurses. At the 2006 National Symposium the number of members that attended the Acute Care SIG Networking Session was impressive. It certainly reaffirmed our understanding of your interest in this area of specialization and reinforced the need for a SIG in this area of specialty.

Getting a new SIG started is a big undertaking and often requires a lot of time to fulfill the step-by-step needs of identifying the members of the team, developing the plan for supporting the mission and vision of ANNA, and through the expertise of the specialty group implementing programs and projects to enhance the understanding and delivery of care for this specialty. Rhonda Martin did a wonderful job leading the Acute Care SIG the first year it was developed, but she is unable to continue as SIG leader at this time. We thank her for her service and wish her well.

I am very pleased to announce that MaryRose Kott has agreed to serve as interim SIG leader for the remainder of this year. MaryRose has been an Acute Care SIG member since its inception and serves on ANNA’s Ethics Committee. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist and Advanced Nurse Practitioner at St. Joseph Hospital in Syracuse NY. MaryRose will be working with the Acute Care SIG to develop a plan and provide a topic for the SIG Networking Session at the National Symposium in Dallas. Please welcome MaryRose to her new role.

Susan Cronin
SIG Liaison
Music City Chapter

Manager Resources Available on ANNA Web Site

Are you a new manager or maybe a seasoned manager who needs some additional help? ANNA's Administration Special Interest Group has developed the following resource sheets to assist you in your daily practice:

• Conflict Resolution
• Delegation Decision Tree
• Effective Performance Evaluations
• Organizational Resource List

Download these sheets (available as PDF files) from the ANNA Web site and create a library of resources for your office. To access these online manager resources, go to www.annanurse.org, click on Resources, select Publications, and click on Manager Resource Sheets.