



Introducing the New and Improved....

Arizona Airways

Spring Issue—March 2009

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2009 AzSRC President's Message

Bill Sayers, RRT

As spring is almost here, I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable winter.

The AzSRC board is thrilled to announce that a one-day, spring conference will be held in Prescott, Arizona on May 22, 2009. The AzSRC, along with Ted Crowther at Northern Arizona VA Health Care System have been working hard to put this conference together. The conference will be held at the VA Hospital. More conference information and a listing of the lecture topics will be posted on our website very soon.

The AzSRC would like to recognize the individuals who, by way of their membership, are determining the direction of our profession at both the state and national level. These individuals are the fortitude of our profession in this state. When the AARC goes to Washington D.C. in support of important legislation that would benefit all of us, it is these very therapists who are counted and whose voices are heard. Please take a moment to see all of our current members at www.azsrc.com. As you look over the list of AzSRC members, I hope you will identify many of your colleagues and thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment to move our profession forward. Their membership makes a difference. Unfortunately, you will find many excellent therapists absent from the list. These missing therapists have the power to help move our profession onward. We need to recognize why they decided not to join their professional organization and then work to encourage them to join the AARC. So, as you help your co workers to realize the opportunities of joining the AARC/AzSRC, please do ask them to help us move our organization forward by becoming a member. You can make a difference by recruiting just one new member and each new member also can and will make a difference for our state society. I look forward to a great year ahead!

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The Arizona Hospital Spotlight Shines on..... Paradise Valley Hospital's Cardiopulmonary Department!

I had the pleasure of meeting with and interviewing Judy Bedoya, MSL, RRT, Director of Cardiopulmonary and Echocardiogram at Paradise Valley Hospital. I was truly delighted and impressed to learn about the role development and diversification that their Cardio-pulmonary department has implemented while maintaining a close knit family atmosphere built upon interdisciplinary trust and teamwork. Judy has actively led this team for three years this coming October. In response to these difficult economic times, the Cardiopulmonary department has focused on cost savings through cross training as well as identified new opportunities of growth in non-traditional areas. As a result, they have productively created new avenues of efficiencies. Paradise Valley Hospital is a 136-bed community-based hospital that has developed key programs and services in a broad range of inpatient and outpatient settings designed to meet the medical needs of the growing community. The cardiopulmonary department consists of 25 respiratory therapists delivering a full menu of respiratory, cardiopulmonary, cardiology, echocardiogram and pulmonary function services. They should be very proud of their excellent scope of practice, expansion of the role of a respiratory therapist and commitment to ongoing education.



About 2 years ago, the PICC program at Paradise Valley Hospital was taken on by the department. Currently, 100% of all PICC line insertions and maintenance are conducted exclusively by the cardiopulmonary department. A team of 6 clinical specialists provide onsite, 24/7 PICC line support, supporting 80-100 insertions/month. Since implementing a maintenance program, the infection rate is consistently less than 1%. All PICC lines are inserted at bedside with supporting ultrasound guidance, supporting convenience and safety. For a small community hospital, Paradise Valley hospital is the location repeatedly requested for PICC line insertions due to their stellar reputation of this program. This has created a tremendous amount of outpatient business coming to the hospital.

The department has excelled and benefited by the extensive amount of cross training completed. Clinical specialists are trained in the cardiology, hyperbaric, rehab and bronchoscopy areas. Therapists assist in each and every bronchoscopy conducted in the hospital. Whether the procedure is completed in endoscopy, critical care, or the emergency room, respiratory is bedside to assist. In addition, Respiratory therapists, all having current PALS and ACLS training, have a strong role in the emergency room, participating in all conscious sedation and cardio-version procedures. All blood gas sampling conducted by therapists offers full analysis including hemoglobin, electrolyte and blood gas values, offered in all clinical areas of the hospital.



On a personal note, Judy is a native of Pennsylvania, but has resided in our great State of Arizona for almost 30 years. Although her family lives outside of Arizona, her 2 dogs, Holly (age 10) and Maya (1 year old) keep her busy! She enjoys spending her time away from work running and hiking with her pups! My thanks to Judy and the great team of therapists at Paradise Valley Hospital for allowing me to step into their wonderful family environment!

STILL TIME FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS TO ENJOY SUMMER CAMP



The American Lung Association continues to accept applications for Respiratory Therapists to volunteer at **Camp Not-A-Wheeze**

May 30th through June 5th. The original deadline, April 20th, has been extended to ensure that every child who wants to can take advantage of this educational and life changing opportunity can do so! Applications are available on www.lungarizona.org or by calling your local American Lung Association office.

In Phoenix, please call 602-258-7505, in Tucson please call 520-323-1812.

Camp Not-A-Wheeze is the only camp of its kind in Arizona, providing children with asthma from all over the state a safe, traditional summer camp experience. Camp takes place at the Friendly Pines facility in Prescott, where children participate in activities ranging from horse back riding, hiking, canoeing, fishing and more, while also attending asthma education class to learn more about properly managing their asthma. Campers are accompanied throughout the week by licensed medical professionals who volunteer to ensure a safe, well monitored environment.

Many of the Respiratory Therapists who have attended Camp Not-Wheeze have found it to be a life changing event! Not only do you have the opportunity to change and better the life of a child with asthma, but you will also meet and make life long friends. So, if you enjoyed camp as a child or have never attended a camp, please join us in a week of the rewarding fun! Please remember to bring your smile and singing voice for those silly camp songs.

Check It Out!

AzSRC is offering a One day Educational Seminar!

What: “Northern Arizona Spring Symposium”

When: Friday, May 22nd, 2009

Where: Northern Arizona VA Health Care System
Prescott, AZ

4 CEUs offered, \$40/per person

*Watch website for upcoming details ~ www.azsrc.com

Seeking Senate Co-Sponsors for S 343

Bill Offers Opportunities for Respiratory Therapists

AARC has diligently pursued changes in Medicare that would bring patients greater access to respiratory therapists outside the hospital setting. Through support from both AARC members, pulmonary patients, and the respiratory therapy community at large, we have taken one step closer to our goal.

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), key leaders on Medicare issues in the Senate, have jointly introduced S 343, the Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative. When passed by Congress, this legislation will amend portions of the Part B Medicare law to allow certain respiratory therapists to deliver a broader array of services.

With the introduction of S 343 we are well on our way to seeing a major step forward in the recognition of respiratory therapists under Medicare.

What is the RT Initiative About?

Currently, Medicare Part B recognizes a number of medical and other health care services that can be furnished by non-physician practitioners, but respiratory therapy services and respiratory therapists are not among them.

S 343 will permit respiratory therapists with an RRT credential and bachelor's degree to furnish respiratory therapy services without the physician having to be physically present at the time the service is being rendered. This means flexibility for the physician and new opportunities for the respiratory therapist outside of the hospital.

This issue is important to all therapists in this profession, not just those who would be eligible to practice under these new rules. Permitting more options of where, when and how an RRT can provide services opens doors for everyone's future. The legislation would also provide an important avenue for documentation of respiratory therapy services that would provide evidence of the respiratory therapist's value. This is a professional issue that every respiratory therapist can get behind.

We emphasize that our legislative initiative would not change the current work or future work of respiratory therapists who do not have the combined RRT/bachelor's degree qualifications. Those respiratory therapists who do not meet these qualifications will continue to be employed as they are now.

In this Alert we are asking that you use Capitol Connection to send a letter to your Senators urging them to co-sponsor S 343.

What You Can Do

We are calling on all respiratory therapists to contact your Senators. Please use the Capitol Connection service to send your email.

Your efforts will ultimately help the Medicare beneficiaries gain greater access to the respiratory therapist and the services you provide.

AZSRC 43rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

"A Breath of Fresh Air" ~August 18-20th, 2009

Arizona Grand Resort, Phoenix

August 18th—Leader/Vendor Golf Tournament and Luncheon

August 19th & 20th -Conference / Exhibition

- ***Informative Lectures!***
 - ***Golf, Water Park!***
 - ***Abstract Presentation!***
 - ***Vendor Exhibits!***
 - ***Sputum Bowl Finals!***
- ***Therapist, Educator & Department of the Year Awards!***
 - ***Approx 12 CEUs Applied For***

NEW THIS YEAR....

- ***Abstract/ Poster Board Presentations***
 - ***Leader Workshop***
 - ***Vendor Online Registration***

**The Airways is always accepting articles & information!
If you have something to share, please submit to:**

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We're on the Web!!!!

www.azsrc.com

Support Your PACT Representatives as They Head Up Capitol Hill

Article compliments of the AARC

In just a few weeks, members of the AARC's Political Advocacy Contact Team (PACT) will be making their 10th annual march up Capitol Hill to educate their members of Congress on key legislation impacting their respiratory patients.

Buoyed by last summer's victory on pulmonary rehabilitation—after decades of work by the AARC and others, legislation calling for a clear Medicare benefit for these vital programs finally became the law of the land—PACT members are ready to redouble their efforts to enact legislation vital to the health and well being of people with respiratory conditions.

"We've seen a lot of change in the last ten years," says Frank Salvatore, chair of the AARC's government affairs committee. "We've made relationships and connections in Washington and our members of Congress are ready to hear us out."

These volunteers can't do it alone, however. They need your help to garner more victories like the one on pulmonary rehab, and now is the time for you to get started. "The more a Senate or Congressional office hears from you with your support for our issues, the more attention will be paid to your PACT representative when he or she makes the actual Hill visit," explains AARC Director of Government Affairs Cheryl West.

Offering your support is easy: just go to the AARC's [Capitol Connection](#) to read about our key issues, and then click on the "write to Congress" link to send an email of support to your Senators and Representative. Your involvement will be appreciated by respiratory patients across the nation, some of whom are even planning to join their RTs during the March 9-10 visit to reinforce key points to lawmakers from their districts back home.

"Seeing the individuals who are directly impacted by the laws Congress makes is a powerful message," says West. "We think this kind of partnership between the profession and the patient will bring us success."

The three main goals for the 2009 event include:

- Garner support for the AARC's Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative. Recently reintroduced into both houses of Congress as S 343 and HR 1077, this legislation will revise the Medicare law to permit qualified respiratory therapists to provide certain respiratory therapy services, such as smoking cessation, asthma management, and MDI device and medication education, while under the general supervision of a physician in settings other than the acute care hospital.
- Advocate for funding to allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect data on COPD and develop a comprehensive national plan of action for the disease similar to those developed for other conditions.
- Support appropriate reimbursement for services needed by respiratory patients, especially those who depend on home oxygen services.

This March, 101 PACT members from 47 states and the District of Columbia will gather in our nation's capitol to support legislation important to everyone who cares for people with respiratory conditions. Join them in spirit by writing your members of Congress in support of the messages they will be delivering in person when they come to town.