

**THE VAPAA 2009 CME PROGRAM
WESTIN RIVERWALK HOTEL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
JULY 14-17, 2009**

"This program is not yet approved for CME credit. Conference organizers plan to request 33 hours of AAPA Category I CME credit from the Physician Assistant Review Panel. Total number of approved credits is yet to be determined."

**Preliminary Program (6/14/09)
Speakers Subject to Change**

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Session # 1

Time frame: 7:30 - 8:30 AM
Title: Transitioning from Warrior to Veteran
Speaker: Mr. John Sanchez

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the preferred transition from active military to VA.
2. Understand support services that are established and know how to use them.
3. Review known obstacles to ideal care and promote success.
4. Understand the veteran's perspective a little more clearly.

Session # 2

Time frame: 8:30 - 9:30 AM
Title: The NASA Patient Safety Reporting System: A NASA/VA Collaboration to Improve Safety (A Global Perspective)
Speaker: Linda Connell, RN, MA
Director, NASA PSRS

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the NASA Patient Safety Reporting system (PSRS) and its genesis in the Aviation Safety Reporting system.
2. Understand the internal and external reporting systems available in the VA.
3. Understand the need for reporting healthcare events and near misses.

Session # 3

Time frame: 9:45 - 10:45 AM
Title: The NASA Patient Safety Reporting System: A NASA/VA Collaboration to Improve Safety (Incidents, Reports, & Actions)
Speaker: Stephen Pakula, MD

Analyst, NASA PSRS

- Objectives:
- At the completion of this session, the attendee will:
1. Have reviewed examples of reports and consequential actions.
 2. Understand barriers to reporting by healthcare providers.
 3. Understand how PSRS can eliminate these reporting barriers.

Session # 4

Time frame: 10:45 - 11:45 AM

Title: PSRS & the Facility: A Panel Discussion

Speaker: Linda Connell, Stephen Pakula, Fran Kunath, Jim Hernandez

- Objectives:
- At the completion of this session, the attendee will:
1. Understand the relationships between PSRS, the facility Patient Safety Office and the Quality Management team.
 2. Have the opportunity to present questions to a panel of team members from these offices.
 3. Understand the clinical PA's role in Patient Safety.
 4. Discuss opportunities for PAs in Patient Safety roles.

Session # 5

Time frame: 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Title: Pain Management: A Systematic Approach

Speaker: Michael Swetman, DHSc, PA-C

- Objectives:
- At the completion of this session, the attendee will:
1. Understand the fundamental evaluation of a patient with chronic pain.
 2. Understand the appropriate approach to therapeutic intervention.
 3. Understand therapeutic options and combinations that may be used in primary care settings, and those best used by a specialty/multidisciplinary team specializing in pain management.
 4. Understand the principles of patient contracts and their utilization.

Session # 6

Time frame: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Title: Fibromyalgia: Disease or not Disease- that is the question!

Speaker: Susan Rogers, PharmD

- Objectives:
- At the completion of this session, the attendee will:
1. Understand the diagnostic criteria for fibromyalgia.
 2. Understand the value of management of this condition.
 3. Understand the therapeutic approach to this problem.

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Session # 7

Time frame: 7:30 - 8:30 AM
Title: Reactive Airway Disease: Essentials of Diagnosis and Therapy
Speaker: Sandra Adams, MD

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Review diagnostic criteria for asthma.
2. Understand the pharmacological options for controlling exacerbations.
3. Understand the need for patient education and involvement in the management process for this disease.
4. Review the criteria for appropriate referral to a specialist.

Session # 8

Time frame: 8:30 – 9:30 AM
Title: Psychopharmacology for the Primary Care Provider
Speaker: Cynthia Mascarenas, PharmD, MSc, BCPP

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Review the common classes of medications used to treat anxiety and depression.
2. Review potential adverse and side effects of each class.
3. Understand the key drug interactions with these and commonly used cardiac and antihypertensive medications, diabetes medications, and pain medications.
4. Review the importance and utility of medication reconciliation.

Session # 9

Time frame: 9:45 - 10:45 AM
Title: Pandemic Flu: Update on Preparation
Speaker: Louis Wu, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the concern for a pandemic influenza outbreak.
2. Understand the concern over Avian and other potential strains of influenza that could threaten as a pandemic.
3. Understand the need for planning for limited resource allocation.
4. Review the ethical implications for healthcare providers.

Session # 10

Time frame: 10:45 - 11:45 AM
Title: The Swine Flu Experience: Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital
Speaker: Jose Cadena, MD

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the threat of H1N1 (Swine) flu.
2. Understand the conditions that forced the imposition of screening and limited access at Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital in spring 2009.
3. Understand the modifications to the pandemic plan in place at that time.
4. Appreciate the modifications in planning for future events.

Session # 11
Time frame: 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Title: Compartment Syndrome
Speaker: Joe Streff, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the clinical signs and symptoms that should raise suspicion for compartment syndrome.
2. Understand the pathology and etiologies of this syndrome.
3. Understand the appropriate interventions and possible complications of therapy.
4. Understand the primary care provider's role in evaluation and urgent referral for specialty treatment.

Session # 12
Time frame: 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Title: What every Primary Care Provider Should Know about Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery
Speaker: Anthony Riffel, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the general conduct of Coronary Artery Revascularization in the operating room.
2. Understand the fundamentals of perioperative management.
3. Understand common discharge medications and their indications, doses and expected duration of use.
4. Understand the activity limitations and recommendations for patients who have had open heart surgery.

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Session # 13
Time frame: 7:30 - 8:30 AM
Title: Hepatitis, Patient Management and Epidemiology within the VA
Speaker: Sandra Paez, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Review the characteristics of the various forms of hepatitis currently known.
2. Understand the prevalence of each within the VA population.
3. Understand the current therapies available and programs that currently follow these patients.
4. Review recommendations for testing, follow-up, and patient and family education.

Session # 14

Time frame: 8:30 - 9:30 AM
Title: HIV: Current Therapies and Epidemiology
Speaker: Olga Ali, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand criteria used to stage this disease process.
2. Review current optimal treatment regimens.
3. Review current biostatistics and potential impact on healthcare system.

Session # 15

Time Frame: 9:45 - 10:45 AM
Title: A Review of Leukemia: Diagnosis and Management
Speaker: Bonita Neumon, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Have reviewed the fundamental pathology and diagnostic criteria of the common forms of leukemia.
2. Understand the role of the primary care provider and the specialty PA in assessment and diagnostic evaluation.
3. Understand the current emphasis in therapeutic intervention.
4. Understand the prognosis for patients and the appropriate education for patients and families regarding their care and expectations.

Session # 16

Time frame: 10:45 - 11:45 AM
Title: Trends in Dermatologic Disorders and Treatment
Speaker: Amy Lauer, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Have reviewed the fundamentals of a dermatologic assessment and the presentation of findings.
2. Review common dermatologic complaints seen by the Primary Care Provider.
3. Discuss current therapeutic options for treatment by the PCP.
4. Discuss indications for specialty referral.

Session # 17

Time frame: 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Title: Palliative Care
Speaker: Judith Knudson, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the range of services and goals of palliative care.
2. Understand patient selection, evaluation, and determination of care needed by individual patient and family.
3. Review the potential roles for PAs in Palliative Care Teams.
4. Understand the particular need for increased resources in the veteran population.

Session # 18

Time frame: 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Title: Geriatric Update
Speaker: Bob Kunath, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the anticipated shift in the aged population and its expected impact on demand for healthcare services.
2. Understand the physiologic changes associated with aging and their impact on diet, activity, and medication usage.
3. Incorporate changes in prescriptive practice to reduce polypharmacy and undesirable drug interactions, and promote medication reconciliation.
4. Utilize effective educational tools and reminder devices to promote activity and treatment compliance, and encourage healthier lifestyles.

Friday, July 17, 2009

Session # 19

Time frame: 7:30 - 8:30 AM
Title: Hand Arthritis: The Painful Curse of RA!
Speaker: Joe Streff, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Review the various forms of arthritis that affect the hand.
2. Understand the characteristics of Rheumatoid Arthritis in the hands.
3. Understand the various therapeutic options available for the provider and their management.
4. Understand the management process involving the primary care provider, the rheumatologist, and other specialty providers.

Session # 20

Time frame: 8:30 - 9:30 AM
Title: Update on Gastrointestinal Disorders
Speaker: Melanie Prebis, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Review the normal anatomy of the GI tract.
2. Understand the techniques used to detect early malignancies within the GI tract.
3. Understand the screening and follow-up recommendations currently employed within the VHA.
4. Be able to integrate these processes into primary care practice.

Session # 21

Time frame: 9:45 - 10:45 AM
Title: Women's Health Care in the VHA
Speaker: TBD

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand current guidelines for preventative care in women veterans.
2. Understand the specialized training necessary to provide primary care for women.
3. Review special concerns associated with gender specific issues from the facility perspective.
4. Understand the magnitude of the gender shift in the veteran population over the next decade.

Session # 22

Time frame: 10:45 - 11:45 AM
Title: Making Sense of Lower Back Pain
Speaker: David Roberts, MD with Carlton Kizzie, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the three common pain pathways associated with common conditions manifest as low back pain.
2. Understand radiographic, including MRI, findings associated with common lower back conditions.
3. Understand the conservative treatment modalities available for treating these conditions.

Session # 23

Time frame: 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Title: Type 2 Diabetes: Management & Performance Measures
Speaker: TBD

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Review the current understanding of the pathology of Diabetes and its effects on major organ systems.
2. Understand the prevalence of diabetes in the veteran population.
3. Understand the essential therapeutic steps necessary to slow the progression of the disease, including weight loss, exercise and diet modification.
4. Understand the impact of VHA performance measures on the quality of care for the veteran population.

Session # 24
Time frame: 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Title: Personal and Professional Advancement for PAs within the VHA.
Speaker: W. Doug McCoy, PA-C with Denni Woodmansee, PA-C

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the promotion process for PAs within the VHA.
2. Work through the development of a Curriculum Vita, a promotion recommendation, and a Board Action Request.
3. Understand the need to self promote one's efforts and accomplishments.
4. Understand the appeals process following a board action and the applicant's involvement.

OPTIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS (With limited capacity)

Session # 25A
Time frame: 5:30 - 8:30 PM, Tuesday, July 14
Title: Veterans Affairs Physician Assistant Association General Membership Meeting
Speaker: Robert Kunath, President, VAPAA
CME Credit: None

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the current state of affairs within the VAPAA.
2. Have reviewed the current financial status of the organization.
3. Have had the opportunity to participate in this meeting.

Session # 26A/B
Time frame: 3:30 - 9:30 PM, Wednesday or Thursday
Title: VA Professional Standards Board Training
Speaker: Denni Woodmansee, PA-C
PA Advisor to the Undersecretary for Health
CME Credit: 5 hours Cat I, Professional (Requested)

Dinner included (1 hour)

*****Enrollment is LIMITED - 2 sessions will be offered*****

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Have reviewed governing policies regarding the constitution and conduct of a PSB.
2. Understand the PA's role in this process.
3. Participate in a mock board and self-evaluate.
3. Earn a certificate showing successful completion of this training.

Session # 27A/B

Time frame: 3:30 – 5:30 PM, Wednesday or Thursday
Title: Basic Suturing Skills Workshop
Speaker: Karen Reedy, PA-C; Doug McCoy, PA-C
CME Credit: 2 hours Cat I (Requested)

*****LIMITED to 20 participants per session*****

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Understand the principles of wound healing and the role of primary closure.
2. Understand the types of suture and other devices used for closure and the indications & contraindications for each.
3. Practice two handed knot tying.
4. Perform a simple running stitch closure and use a skin stapler to approximate a simulated wound.
5. Complete a short written exam on the class content.

Session # 28A/B

Time frame: 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Wednesday or Thursday
Title: Advanced Suturing Skills Workshop
Speaker: Karen Reedy, PA-C; Doug McCoy, PA-C
CME Credit: 2 hours Cat I (Requested)

*****LIMITED to 20 participants per session*****

Objectives: At the completion of this session, the attendee will:

1. Review needle types and the indications for each.
2. Learn techniques for subcutaneous, subcuticular, and skin closure.
3. Practice these techniques under supervision on animal tissue (pig's feet).
4. Demonstrate safe handling of tissue and sharps/instruments.
5. Complete a short written exam on the class content.