



ADVANCING NEW STANDARDS IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

News from the Health Workforce Pilot Project

July 2009
Vol. 1, #1

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Primary Care Initiative (PCI)/Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) newsletter! Our goal is to provide useful and interesting information regarding the PCI and HWPP. We hope these quarterly updates on data collection, policy, events, and other news will help you feel more connected to the work at UCSF's Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) office. [Read more...](#)

Patient data update (Quarter 7)

Thanks to hard work by all—HWPP Research Coordinators, APCs, trainers, and clinic staff—we have doubled our patient enrollment since January 2009, and the percentage of patients who agree to be seen by an APC currently stands at 77%. [Read excerpts from patient surveys and more on enrollment...](#)

Policy update

In recent months, the HWPP mechanism under which our project operates has received attention from the California legislature. After writing an inaccurate article about HWPP, Senator Sam Aanestad (R-Grass Valley) introduced SB 761, which would have severely limited the HWPP mechanism. [Learn more about the bill and its impact on the HWPP project...](#)

OSHPD update

In January 2009, the Primary Care Initiative submitted its annual renewal application to California's Health and Human Services Agency Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) Health Workforce Pilot Project Program. This would extend HWPP at ANSIRH for a fourth year, through March 31, 2010. [Get an update on the progress of HWPP's 2009-2010 waiver renewal...](#)

Events and continuing education

The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) is a great source of continuing education—from their [free webinar recordings](#) on a variety of topics to their [e-alerts](#) on professional education opportunities and other sources of information. [Read more about membership in professional organizations...](#)

In addition, the Abortion Access Project, ANSIRH, and NAF are about to release a new toolkit providing information on how to advance your scope of practice and document your skills and competencies as you develop your abortion practice. [Learn more...](#)



Shauna Nyborg

Editor: [Shauna Nyborg, Project Assistant, Health Workforce Pilot Project \(HWPP\)](#). ©2009 ANSIRH. Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health—ANSIRH—works to ensure that reproductive health care and policy are grounded in evidence. ANSIRH's multi-disciplinary team includes clinicians, researchers and scholars in the fields of sociology, demography, anthropology, medicine, nursing, public health, and law. ANSIRH is a program of the Bixby Center for Reproductive Health.



Turnaway Study

Primary Care Initiative

Health Workforce Pilot Project

APCs: Advancing access to abortion care

Social and Emotional Aspects of Abortion

Patient Ultrasound Viewing Project

Second Trimester Abortion Initiative

Health Care Refusals Projects

Welcome to the new PCI/HWPP newsletter!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Primary Care Initiative (PCI)/Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) newsletter! If you're reading this here, you probably received the newsletter by email. You can also [read it online](#).

The goal of this quarterly newsletter is to provide useful and interesting information regarding the PCI and HWPP. We hope that updates on data collection, policy, events, and other news will help program participants and others who are peripherally involved feel more connected to the work at UCSF's Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) office.

Since the middle of 2007, the HWPP project has been studying the efficacy and safety of advanced practice clinicians (APCs) performing first trimester aspiration abortions utilizing a two-part training program. Under a legal waiver from California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), we began training our first APC in a Northern California clinic. Now, two years later, we are training in four California regions, have 13 APCs in the project's independent practice phase, three APCs in the training phase and over 30 additional clinicians waiting to begin the training process with many more projected to participate.

As you read through this first newsletter, think about other items you would like us to add. This is meant to inform those of you who know of the HWPP project and those who are intimately involved with its operation-what do you want to know? Please [send an email](#) with your comments or suggestions.

All of us working on the PCI/HWPP project want to thank all of our trainers, trainees, research coordinators, site administrative staff and clinic staff for making this project possible. We truly appreciate what you do.

Shauna Nyborg
Project Assistant, HWPP
nyborgs@obgyn.ucsf.edu

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Data update (Quarter 7)

KRISTIN NOBEL, MPH, PROJECT EVALUATOR

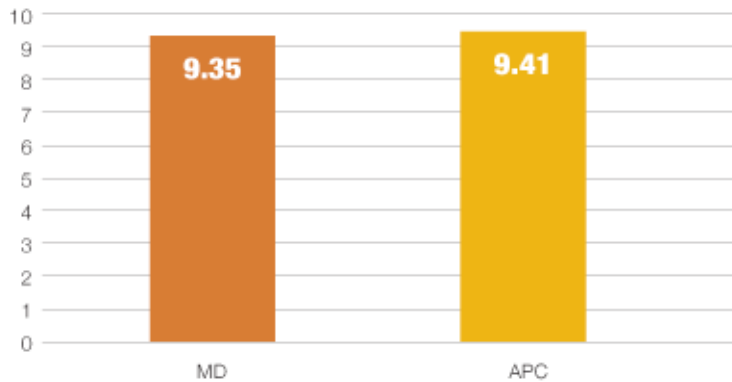
Patient data

Thanks to hard work by all—HWPP Research Coordinators, APCs, trainers, and clinic staff—we have doubled our patient enrollment since January 2009! As of June 1, clinic sites had enrolled 2955 patients, 1704 of whom were seen by APCs.

Thirteen of the 16 APCs who have participated in training are now in their independent practice phase. The percentage of patients who agree to be seen by an APC currently stands at 77%.

These patients have been very happy with the care they received from their APC providers, rating their overall satisfaction 9.4 out of 10, and as a group they are statistically as satisfied as patients seen by an MD:

Patient satisfaction with care immediately following procedure, by provider type (n=1742)



Of the 797 Follow-Up Surveys we obtained from APC patients, 25% volunteered additional comments, including the following:

“I liked how the nurse did everything for me before, during, and after the procedure.”

“The staff was friendly and the nurse was gentle. I felt like I was just getting a pap.”

“The clinicians were nice and the woman who actually performed the abortion and her assistant were the ones who made me feel most like a person rather than a patient.”

“I was impressed by the kindness and quality of care shown by the nurses, midwife, and staff.”

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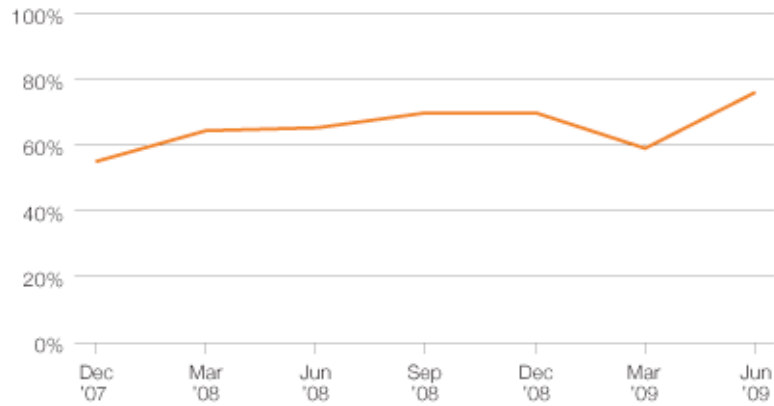
APCs

To date, 43 of the 47 APCs who consented to participate in the study have completed a baseline participant survey. The respondents have an average of 11 years' experience, and only slightly more than half (54%) are a member of their CNM/NP/CNM professional organization.

Follow-up

In the past quarter, we reached 75% of patients for follow-up, reflecting a dramatic increase from our starting point of 55% in January 08. Thanks to the Project's Research Coordinators and their ongoing efforts to reach patients and boost the follow-up rate.

Patient follow-up by quarter



With only 25% of the 12,000 patients we plan to enroll, we still have quite a bit of ground to cover. We are very excited to welcome Kaiser of Northern California, whose first clinician is expected to start training at Planned Parenthood: Shasta-Diablo in August. Full steam ahead!



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Policy update

ERIN SCHULTZ, JD, LAW AND POLICY ANALYST

Over the last few months, the Health Workforce Pilot Project mechanism under which the Project operates has received some attention from the California legislature. Senator Sam Aanestad (R–Grass Valley) introduced a bill (SB 761) that would have severely limited the HWPP mechanism and stripped the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's (OSHPD) authority to offer approval to pilot projects similar to HWPP #171. **We are happy to report that on July 7th, SB 761 was heard in the Assembly Committee on Health and it did not receive enough votes to move beyond that committee.**

The introduction of SB 761 provided Project staff with the opportunity to update members of the State Legislature on the incredible work underway at partner organizations throughout the state to increase the number of clinicians currently providing aspiration abortions in California. These updates were met with interest, and we received many encouraging responses. **If you are a trainee participating in the APC Project and you are interested in becoming more involved in related policy activities, please [contact Erin Schultz](#).**

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OSHPD update

MOLLY BATTISTELLI, HWPP PROJECT DIRECTOR

Primary Care Initiative's Health Workforce Pilot Project #171 is in its third year of operation under the approval of California's Health and Human Services Agency Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) Program. HWPP projects are evaluated throughout the year and approval is extended on a yearly basis, upon annual renewal application and review. In January 2009, the Primary Care Initiative applied for renewal and extension of the HWPP Project #171 through March 31st, 2010.

In February of 2009, OSHPD conducted annual site visits at three of the HWPP Project's Partner Organizations:

Planned Parenthood: Shasta-Diablo
Planned Parenthood of San Diego & Riverside Counties
Planned Parenthood Los Angeles.

At these visits, the site visit team included representatives of the healing arts boards, relevant professional associations and academic institutions. The team interviewed the clinician trainees, trainers, and clinical and evaluation administrators. Patient satisfaction and safety information was reviewed and a thorough audit of research and evaluation protocols, as well as the curriculum, was conducted. Formal assessments by the site visit team were subsequently given to OSHPD.

The Project, administrators, trainers and trainees received acclaim at each of the 2009 site visits—the site visit teams were impressed with the rigorous and complicated study design, the competency-based curriculum and the thoroughness of the training and support provided throughout the training and practice phases of the Project.

As the result of increased political attention paid to the HWPP Project #171 (see above information on SB761), annual renewal through March 31, 2010 has yet to be secured. In spite of this delay, OSHPD remains committed to the Project and has provided a series of incremental extensions to avoid any disruption to training and practice while administrative concerns are addressed.

ANSIRH continues to work closely with all involved to secure the success of the Project and to ensure that OSHPD's oversight and evaluation needs are met. **We anticipate a full extension and will keep all of our partners updated as we move forward.**

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**AMY LEVI, CNM, WHNP-BC, PHD, FACNM,
HWPP CLINICAL EDUCATION CONSULTANT**

The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) offers a [great free source of continuing education](#). On their website, clinicians can [access a variety of topics](#) recorded from regularly presented webinars. You can also [sign up for their e-alerts](#) to keep abreast of professional education opportunities and other sources of information.

[Membership in professional organizations](#) is a great way to keep in touch with updated clinical information and maintain a connection with sources of information about legislative issues. There is strength in numbers, and our professional organizations can influence policy and help to support our work by advocating for us as professionals. They can also help us to maintain a connection to the issues that affect our practice, and have an impact on our patient population.

[There are a variety of specific organizations to consider joining:](#)

- national organizations specific to your certification (ANA, AAPA, AANP)
- statewide affiliates of national organizations (CNA, CANP, CAPA)
- specialty-specific organizations (NPWH, NAF, ARHP)

As a “thank you” to our trainees and as a sign of our commitment to growing clinician membership in professional organizations, [the HWPP project is giving trainees who have completed 100 procedures a year-long membership to NAF’s Clinicians for Choice.](#)

Coming soon...

**DIANA TAYLOR, RNP, PHD, FAAN,
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION, PCI**

Three organizations (Abortion Access Project, UCSF ANSIRH, and NAF) have written [“Providing Abortion Care: A Professional Toolkit for Nurse-Midwives, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants,”](#) which will be available on-line soon. This handy toolkit provides information on how to advance your scope of practice and document your skills and competencies as you develop your abortion practice.

You will all be notified by e-mail when the document is posted on-line, and the ANSIRH website will also provide a link to the document.

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