AANA Hosts Pain Management Summit

Chronic pain is far more than a condition or a symptom of an illness; it is a public health problem with enormous costs to individuals, their families, and the nation as a whole. In the spirit of providing solutions and offering CRNAs who wish to practice in holistic pain management a path forward, stakeholders gathered at the AANA Pain Management Summit on Jan. 31.

Participants included faculty from the AANA Pain Management Fellowship and AANA Pain Management Professional Development Workshops, as well as representatives from the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA), the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), and AANA staff.

A Unique Nursing Perspective

One theme emerging from the summit is the value of the unique, holistic approach that CRNAs bring, as advanced practice nurses, to the field of pain management. The Institute of Medicine Report, “Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research” stated that 100 million Americans suffer from chronic pain, at a cost of up to $635 billion each year in medical treatment and lost productivity. CRNAs are positioned to fill an important role in solving this crisis, offering patients—especially in underserved areas of the country—accessible, safe, cost-effective pain management services.

AANA Senior Director of Professional Practice Lynn Reede, CRNA, DNP, MBA, led a presentation on the current AANA Chronic Pain Management Guidelines. Adopted by AANA Board of Directors at the AANA 2014 Annual Congress, the guidelines affirm that providing chronic pain management services is within CRNA professional scope of practice. In an open discussion, participants agreed that guidelines need to focus on the unique approach of CRNAs in treating the whole person and that CRNAs should serve as leaders in the comprehensive approach to treatment.

Nurse anesthesia is the only nursing specialty to offer an accredited postgraduate fellowship in pain management. In January 2014 the COA established “Standards for Accreditation of Post Graduate CRNA Fellowships.”

COA Executive Director Francis Gerbasi, CRNA, PhD, provided background on the policies and process for creating the standards. At the COA’s May 2014 meeting, the AANA Post-Graduate Advanced Pain Management Fellowship, administered through Hamline University, became the first fellowship accredited by the COA.

Nonsurgical Pain Management Credential (NSPM-C)

NBCRNA Chief Credentialing Officer Lisa Thiemann, CRNA, PhD, provided an overview of the NBCRNA’s new, voluntary subspecialty certification for nurse anesthetists in Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM). According to the NBCRNA website, “NSPM is defined by the NBCRNA as the administration of neural or neuraxial blockade, physiological, pharmacological, and psychological techniques and modalities for the management of acute and chronic pain outside the obstetrical and operating room areas. This may include the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of multimodal approaches in providing patient care.”

Thiemann provided an overview of the eligibility criteria and educational requirements for NSPM certification, which can be found on the NBCRNA website at http://www.nbcrna.com/NSPM/Pages/NSPM-Criteria.aspx. NBCRNA offered the first examinations in early 2015. See the website http://www.nbcrna.com/NSPM/Pages/NSPM.aspx for further information and test dates.

Meeting the Needs of our Patients

The AANA is dedicated to CRNA professional excellence. The CRNA collaborates with the patient’s healthcare team to provide pain management services tailored for each unique patient. The AANA Pain Management Curriculum, which currently includes AANALearn modules, the Physical Assessment Workshop, the Jack Neary I and II Workshops, and the COA-accredited Postgraduate Pain Management Fellowship, are continually reviewed, enhanced, and expanded. The pain management CRNA may choose to sit for the NBCRNA examination for the NSPM-C credential.

Want to Know More?

For further information about this exciting field, see the July issue of the NewsBulletin, and contact the AANA Professional Development and Education Department at (847) 939-3530; painmanagement@aana.com

References


