

## CARF Accreditation Achieved: Community Services Coordination

We received our second consecutive accreditation for Community Support Services by CARF (Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), the accrediting body for rehabilitation programs throughout the world. We had our initial site survey three years ago, and were the first private nursing practice in the country to complete this process. This past summer, it was time for re-accreditation, and once again, we had met the standards. By achieving accreditation, we as a practice are committed to provide the highest level of rehabilitation nursing to our clients and their families.

## ARN: Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, Annual Conference in Philadelphia

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference of ARN was held in Philadelphia October 10-13, 2001 at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel. Nurses from the US, as well as Europe, Asia, Middle East and Australia attended. The local Greater Philadelphia Chapter, was Hospitality Host and coordinated many local educational, social, and professional facility tours and activities. Two consultants from our practice, Ms. Jody Masterson RN, MSN, CRRN and Ms. Kate Murphy RN, MSN, CRRN presented an educational poster entitled, "Life Care Plans: The Blue Print for Quality Care". A more detailed discussion of the objectives and content of the poster presentation appear in this newsletter. Ms. Terri Patterson was elected to the National Board of Directors, as Region 2 Director representing members in Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia and West Virginia. ARN is very active in advocating for access to and provision of the appropriate care for individuals who have sustained a disability and their families. The national conference provided opportunities for all to increase their knowledge base of the multitude of rehabilitation resources which ultimately benefit our clients.

## 2001 Outcome Measurement Report

Every year, we send surveys to all of our clients in both Nursing Consultation and LifeTrak, requesting their evaluation of our services. In this manner, we can continue to improve our services, and incorporate everyone's recommendations into our practice. This past year was very busy, with life care planning and care coordination, as well as continued refinement of our research data base. As there were no computer outcome evaluation programs applicable to a nursing practice, we needed to create our own. With several computer programming consultants and nurse subcontractors, we designed a measurement evaluation program. The detailed results are available upon request, if you are a research fanatic! If not, the summary is as follows:

- Life Care Planning: 100% in all categories inclusive of presentation of the LCP, accessibility of staff, case preparation, rehabilitation knowledge, timeliness, identification of future care and costs, clinical referrals, parameters of care, and impact of disability on quality of life.
- Life Care Coordination: 100% in all categories inclusive of clear understanding of case status and effectiveness of recommended services, communication with families and providers, appropriateness of home care program, appropriate allocation of funds, resources provided, team meetings helpful and improved quality of life.

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## South Africa: Capetown University Nursing Visit

This past summer Ms. Patterson was in Africa (South Africa and Zimbabwe) for vacation, but spent a day at Capetown University. Ms. Patterson was traveling with friends, and one was the nurse author Ms. Alfaro-LeFevre, who has written numerous nursing diagnosis and critical thinking textbooks. Ms. Alfaro-LeFevre had contacted, by email of course, the nursing director at Capetown University and mentioned we were going to be in Africa in a few days. After traveling for two days to arrive in South Africa, we were in a meeting with nursing staff and faculty.



Many of the issues facing nursing in America, are the same concerns half way around the world: level of educational preparation, resources for patients, staffing shortages, lack of funding, and the recruitment and retention of qualified and experienced nurses. It was also a historical visit for us, as this was the hospital where the first heart transplant in the world had occurred with Dr. Christian Bernard. After our day of meetings and tours, we were off on safari to Mala Mala Camp to “track lions, elephants, rhinos, baboons, leopards, hippos and giraffes,” and “enjoy African sunsets while floating down the Zambezi River”.

[www.nursingconsultation.com](http://www.nursingconsultation.com) Finally our website is posted!!

We have been designing a website for Nursing Consultation Services, Ltd and LifeTrak, Ltd for the past year. We have now learned more about computer programming than we ever knew existed. You will find all our nursing consultants curriculum vitae, several articles written by or about Ms. Patterson, our private practice services, our past two years newsletters as well as other related information about us. There is also a direct contact link, so if you have any questions, or would like information, you may email us. Happy browsing.....

### ARN 2001 National Conference Poster Presentation

As rehabilitation nurses in private practice, we have the opportunity to develop Life Care Plans (LCP) for individuals with disabilities including those with spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, burn injuries and multiple trauma involving orthopaedic injuries. Our recent poster presentation at the National ARN Conference included two case studies: an adult with a C7 spinal cord injury and a child who suffered an anoxic brain injury. Each LCP provided a comprehensive outline of the present and future health care needs of the client as well as the associated impact of the disability on the family

system. The LCP outlined the actual health care needs, care recommendations and related costs, the implication of aging with a disability, alternatives for life long living with the disability and resources for recommended services. The presentation provided an opportunity for rehabilitation nurses to gain a better understanding of the life long implications and associated costs for services recommended for individuals with long term disabilities. It was well received and proved to be an enlightening presentation for all.

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