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Privileged Communication

Summer 2005

A Complimentary Publication

Dear Attorney,

I am publishing this newsletter to help you and your staff understand how the profession of legal nurse consulting can enhance your practice.

Using legal nurse consultants can increase your profitability by allowing you to have more time to develop the liability issues of your Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Products Liability, or Worker's Compensation cases.

There are two goals I hope to achieve with these newsletters: (a) To increase your knowledge of the role of the legal nurse consultant (LNC) and (b) To provide you with useful information to enhance your practice in these areas.

I'm here to help you. You can reach me at 888-732-7779. If I'm not available to speak with you, please leave me a message and I'll get back to you STAT!

Privileged Communication is written specifically with you in mind. I hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,

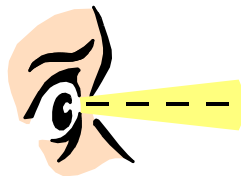
Sharon A. Scott, RN, BSN CLNC
Certified Legal Nurse Consultant

Quotables: "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it."

~ John Ruskin

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

~ Milton Berle



LASIK: It's not for Everyone

Anyone who wears glasses or contacts has thought, at least briefly, about how wonderful it would be to have perfect vision again. More than 1.5 million people a year decide to take action and undergo LASIK surgery. LASIK stands for Laser-Assisted *In Situ* Keratomileusis. This procedure permanently changes the shape of the cornea, the clear covering of the front of the eye using an excimer laser.

Risks of LASIK include : under corrected or over corrected vision (requiring additional treatment or continued use of glasses or contacts), results may be temporary, loss of vision, and dry eye syndrome. Side effects may include: seeing "star bursts" and "halos" and impaired night driving due to glare.

In 2002, the Eye Surgery Education Council, established by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, released new guidelines for screening patients for LASIK. This 4 page guideline helps patients to determine if they are good candidates for this procedure. This guideline describes the ideal candidate, "less than ideal" candidate and non-LASIK candidate. It also details the type of screening exams that should be performed during the evaluation, questions to ask the surgeon and the need for realistic expectations.

Anyone considering this surgery should be an informed consumer and thoroughly research this procedure, including the risks vs. benefits, whether they are a good candidate and the surgeon's background, and training.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov.cdrh/lasik/>

LASIK VERDICT

In July 2005, a Manhattan jury awarded a former investment banker \$7.25 million in damages for vision impairment resulting from LASIK surgery. The suit was against one of New York's leading LASIK surgeons, as well as the corporation that has become one of the nation's largest LASIK providers, TLC Laser Eye Centers. Prior to this, the largest LASIK verdict was \$4 million.

Source: www.law.com, 8/1/05. ♦

Medical Reference Web Sites

Medical Terminology Web <http://ec.hku.hk/mt/>
Selected list of frequently found terms that you or your staff may encounter in reviewing the medical records.

Free on-line medical terminology course by Sweet Haven Medical Technology Series www.free-ed.net/fr02/lfc/020600/20/400/
A complete and self-contained course in modern medical terminology. Little prior knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology are required.

Medical On-Line Dictionary

www.medterms.com

A medical reference for MedicineNet.com, containing easy-to-understand explanations of over 10,000 medical terms. This online medical dictionary provides quick access to hard-to-spell medical definitions through an extensive alphabetical listing.

Medical Abbreviations

www.medilexicon.com
A dictionary of over 110,000 medical, pharmaceutical, biomedical & healthcare acronyms and abbreviations. You can search by abbreviation or definition. ◆

What is a Legal Nurse Consultant (LNC)? A nurse specialist who knows the standard of care, may review, summarize and interpret the medical records, research the literature and locate expert witnesses from all medical fields. LNCs specialize in Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Workers Compensation, Products Liability, Toxic Torts/Environmental, Social Security Disability, Criminal Cases and any case where health, illness, or injury is at issue. Sharon Scott, principal of Sharon Scott & Associates brings over 20 years of clinical experience to your cases. *You can also include your expertise here or you can write a short statement or description.*

*Present this newsletter for a
20% discount off your first case*

Why Hire a LNC?

Cost Effective: LNCs work with attorneys in selecting the right case and maximizing its value, or assisting the defense in defending their case or mitigating damages.

Resourceful: LNCs possess a network of medical and professional contacts.

Knowledgeable: LNCs have a thorough understanding of medical issues related to the litigation process. This information is presented in a format custom designed for the attorney.

Experienced: LNCs have a background of clinical experience which allows them to arrive at a realistic interpretation of medical records, documents and medical-legal issues.

Source: www.aalnc.org

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