

Notes and Announcements

Certification of Neuroscience Nurses

Neuroscience nurses are the first group in Canada to gain recognition of their area of practice as a specialty for certification through the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). The formal application was prepared by the Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses (CANN).

Phase II, development of the first certification examination is now underway. CNA Testing Services is providing the technical resources for examination development. Neuroscience nurses from all regions of Canada are serving on a voluntary basis as content experts on the various test development committees. Phase III, certification of individuals will commence in 1990.

To be eligible for certification a nurse must have a minimum of two years of practice in the specialty in the four years immediately prior to applying, or one year of practice in the specialty plus satisfactory completion of a post-basic program in that specialty. Satisfactory performance appraisals must be provided by a colleague and a supervisor or consultant in the specialty. Passing the written examination will complete the certification process.

The emphasis in certification is on experience. The purposes of certification are to provide a means by which nurses can validate their competence in a specialty; identify, through a recognized credential, those nurses who have met the specialty standards; and enhance the quality of patient care. Certification in nursing is a voluntary process but it will provide a mechanism for recognizing the competence of experienced nurses in the specialty.

Certification does not replace other current initiatives in nursing. The goal of baccalaureate preparation as the minimum requirement by the year 2000 for *entry* into the practice of nurs-

ing reflects the expanding knowledge base required for nursing.

The Canadian Nurses Association is underwriting the initial cost of examination development but external funding is being sought. Further information on the certification program in Neuroscience Nursing can be obtained through Denise Lafortune, Certification Manager, Canadian Nurses Association, 50 The Driveway, Ottawa K2P 1E2 or members of the Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses in each province.

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Canada

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Canada announces that it will receive applications for grants in aid of research on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and motor neuron diseases. Applications for research grants are obtainable from the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Canada, 250 Rogers Road, Toronto, Ontario M6E 1R1. Deadline for receipt of applications — 31 January 1989.

Alzheimer Awareness Month

Alzheimer disease affects at least 300,000 Canadians and causes 10,000 deaths per year. By the end of this century, 3.4 million Canadians will be senior citizens and up to 1 million of them could be affected by Alzheimer Disease.

January, 1988 is Alzheimer Awareness Month, a national program designed to raise public awareness of Alzheimer disease and to draw attention to the concerns of those affected by it.

For more information, contact the Alzheimer Society of Canada, 1320 Yonge Street, Suite 302, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1X2, or call (416) 925-3552.