

# Welcome, Nurses, to *The Permanente Journal*



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Editor-in-Chief

Nurses have always worked with doctors to care for patients. Now, more involved than ever in multidisciplinary team care, nurses want to understand exactly how doctors are practicing medicine: the evidence they base their decisions on, the guidelines they use, application of the electronic medical record, and their approach to shared decision making. Doctors and clinicians want to know the results of nursing research, nursing recommendations about care processes, and nursing perceptions and service practices. In the broadest context, all disciplines benefit from learning about each other's research, processes, and practices.

With this first issue of 2004, we welcome 7000 nurses to advise, participate in, publish in, and receive the journal.

## Multidisciplinary Care

The mission of *The Permanente Journal (TPJ)* is to improve the quality of health care to our members through the principles and benefits of Permanent Medicine. One of the strategic focuses of *TPJ*, is the multidisciplinary delivery of health care. KP-affiliated clinicians—nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, CRNAs, and medical social workers—are included in our distribution.

Because of their importance and contribution to the health care team, we now include KP nurses—inpatient and outpatient RNs, home health and advice nurses—in the development of content and the distribution of *TPJ*.

## George Halvorson Vision

During a recent interview with George Halvorson, Chairman and CEO of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, the discussion touched on the importance of multidisciplinary teams and the importance of best practices. Mr Halvorson indicated that he felt it was important that clinical teams as well as affiliated clinicians receive *TPJ*:

“Team care truly does work. In order to get there, we need to have a systematic approach to team implementation. Teams don't just happen, or most of them don't. We need to help create them ...”<sup>1:p52</sup>

## Assessment

KP nurses and pharmacists, in a recent assessment, indicated that receiving *TPJ* would be relevant and of

value to them and would support their clinical collaboration with physicians.

Recent KP National Market Research confirmed that improving KP's reputation must involve an inside-out approach (experience, word of mouth). Including nurses and pharmacists in the distribution of *TPJ* connects them directly and collaboratively to the delivery of health care to members and enhances internal reputation of quality and service.

In developing this program of expanding the distribution of *TPJ* to nurses and pharmacists, we worked with Bernard Tyson, Senior Vice President, Communications and External Relations, and several KP nurse and pharmacist leaders, including: Marilyn Chow, Vice President, Patient Care Services, Program Office; Al Carver, Director of Pharmacy Strategy and Operations in California; Jennifer Houten, Director of Ambulatory Nursing in Northwest; and Mike Kinard, Regional Pharmacy Manager in Northwest. They were instrumental in advising about the assessment and were enthusiastically supportive of including nurses and pharmacists in the distribution of *TPJ*.

## Expansion Plan

With the direct support of Marilyn Chow and Bernard Tyson, we will distribute *TPJ* to 7000 nurses—the most clinically active—across the program. After one year, we will assess the value to nurses, physicians, clinicians, and pharmacists, with the possibility of increasing the distribution. We are also piloting distribution to pharmacists in the Northwest.

## Thank You

The Advisory Board and Editorial Team of *The Permanente Journal* would like to recognize the strategic vision of George Halvorson and Bernard Tyson, their dedication to the development of multidisciplinary clinical teams, and the deep commitment to support this venture. The KP program will take another step forward as the national health care solution—through multidisciplinary clinical teams bringing the highest quality and service to our patients and members. ❖

## Reference

1. KP's new man at the helm: George Halvorson. *Perm J* 2003 Summer;7(3):49-52.

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