

Regional News

Podcast for Nurses

Real opinions from real people about real issues are the subject of bi-monthly podcasts co-hosted by two nurses BY NANCY SYVERSON

For years, nurses traditionally gathered at “the nurse’s station” in the hospital to share stories about their day, compare notes on practice and discuss pertinent healthcare issues with each other. Now, technology brings the idea of the nurse’s station electronically to your own home using an iPod or MP3 player.

Podcasts are set up to share information. The Nurse’s Station podcast, developed by Renal Care Registered Nursing Services, Nanuet, NY, is another way for nurses to get information about timely topics relevant to their challenging profession — as if they were sitting at their own nurses’ station in the hospital.

Co-Hosts

Jim DeMaria, BSN, RN, vice president of Renal Care, and Janice Breen, RN, nurse manager there, co-host the bimonthly 15-minute podcast, which launched Aug. 7.

“It is an open forum for nurses to just talk,” DeMaria said. “We’ll pick a topic or we’ll take suggestions from the audience on nursing and we’ll speak about it for 15 minutes.”

Anything goes, according to DeMaria: clinical issues, ethical issues, current events, politics and any of a wide range of healthcare topics.

In addition to giving nurses a forum to talk about issues that concern them, the podcast can serve as an alternative for everyday news — or it may turn out to be just a gripe session.

Free Downloads

The kickoff program, “Are We Allowed to Die?” prerecorded in August, is now available as a free download on iTunes and on the company’s Web site at www.renalcarners.com.

“Get a group of nurses in the room, and I’ll bet we can have a 3-hour conversation on the topic of whether we are allowed to die,” DeMaria said. Topics covered in this podcast include DNR and advanced directives — particularly whether they are followed or ignored. Questions, such as whether we prolong life in this country and what acute care nurses really think, may shock listeners.

“You can agree or you can disagree,” DeMaria said. “But it’s good to get talking about it.”

DeMaria said he is always looking for ideas and for nurses to come on the show. “If you feel strongly about a topic and you have good thought-out opinions, come on, let’s do it,” he said. “We really want to hear from nurses all over the country and even abroad.”

Go ahead: have your own personal rant — there’s thousands listening.

For more information on how you can participate in the Nurses Station podcast, go to www.renalcarners.com. You can also call 800-439-7365 or e-mail info@renalcarners.com. ■

Nancy Syverson is regional editor at *ADVANCE*.



BE HEARD: Hosts Janice Breen, RN (left) and James DeMaria, BSN; RN, prerecord their new podcast: The Nurse’s Station. Valerie Millerick, RN, CNN, and founder of Renal Care Registered Nursing Services, Nanuet, NY, which sponsors the program, is pictured at right. *courtesy Renal Care*