



## OUR TEAM APPROACH TO CARE

Dear valued Arthritis Northwest patient,

We appreciate and respect the trust that you have placed in us by allowing our dedicated staff and providers to be a part of your rheumatologic care. At Arthritis Northwest we value the relationship that we establish with our patients and we are committed to providing state-of-art healthcare to each and every one of our patients in a compassionate and caring environment.

As we move forward with our commitment to you, we find that we are faced with a continuing nationwide shortage of rheumatologists-in the Inland Northwest as well as throughout the rest of the country. In order to meet society's growing need for rheumatologic care, we have found that we can improve service and availability through the implementation of a team-based model of evaluation and management where your physician, in collaboration with his practitioner and his excellent support staff, can provide better access to comprehensive care.

**What this means for you:** In the future, when you make an appointment or if you already have a scheduled appointment, you may be seen by either your physician or his practitioner. Your initial consultation will always be with your rheumatologist, but subsequent visits will alternate between your rheumatologist and your practitioner. Regardless of who sees you, your physician will constantly be kept abreast of your situation and will be available for consult by his practitioner during your visit if necessary. You should know that your level of care will not decrease. Rather, this arrangement will allow us to improve your care by reducing wait times for appointments, improving your access to our providers, and allowing us to better serve the Inland Northwest's rheumatologic needs.

To read more about the professional training and commitment of our talented Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioner at Arthritis Northwest, please review the reverse of this page for photographic and biographic information. You may also like to visit our website at [www.arthritisnw.com](http://www.arthritisnw.com).

Thank you for choosing Arthritis Northwest.

Sincerely,

Arthritis Northwest Physicians, Practioners and Staff

Howard M. Kenney, M.D

Jeffrey B. Butler, M.D

Michael Coan, D.O

Gary L. Craig, M.D

Sean P. LaSalle, M.D

Eric C. Mueller, M.D

Christopher Valley, N.D

Christopher Wright, M.D.

Dale Raschko, PA-C





Courtney Smyth, DNP, ARNP

Penny Sather, ARNP

Erin Saunders, PA-C

Diana Webster, ARNP

## MEET OUR PRACTITIONERS

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|  <p><b>DALE RASCHKO, PA-C</b></p>             | <p><b>DALE RASCHKO, PA-C</b></p> <p>Dale Raschko is a certified physician assistant. He has been with Arthritis Northwest since 2009. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington in Clinical Health Services. His career in healthcare has afforded him the opportunity to work in occupational medicine and as an Army medic. Raschko also served as a combat medicine instructor for the Army. Following his service in the Army, Raschko graduated from the Physician Assistant program at the University of Washington.</p>   |
|  <p><b>PENNY SATHER, ARNP</b></p>             | <p><b>PENNY SATHER, ARNP</b></p> <p>Penny Sather is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner. She joined Arthritis Northwest in 2019. Penny earned her nursing degree at the Spokane Community College. She went on to earn a Master of Science in Nursing, Health Systems Leadership and a second Master of Science in Nursing, Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner from Gonzaga University. She has worked as an RN in a variety of subspecialties including intensive care, ophthalmology, orthopedics and cardiology.</p>   |
|  <p><b>ERIN SAUNDERS, PA-C</b></p>           | <p><b>ERIN SAUNDERS, PA-C</b></p> <p>Erin Saunders is a certified physician assistant. Saunders has been with Arthritis Northwest since 2006. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Whitworth College and the Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education and a physician assistant degree from the University of Washington. She has worked as an R.N. in a variety of settings, including public health, family medicine, pediatrics and OB/GYN.</p>   |
|  <p><b>COURTNEY L. SMYTH, DNP, ARNP</b></p> | <p><b>COURTNEY L. SMYTH, DNP, ARNP</b></p> <p>Courtney Smyth is an advanced practice nurse practitioner that joined Arthritis Northwest in 2020. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from San Jose State University. She earned her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Gonzaga University. Dr. Smyth’s career includes intensive care, cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology lab, ambulatory surgery, and oncology. She has also worked as an ICU nurse internationally in Sydney, NSW, Australia. In her spare time, Courtney enjoys spending time with her family and friends, cooking, entertaining, and outdoor recreation.</p> |



**DIANA WEBSTER, ARNP**

**DIANA WEBSTER, ARNP**

Diana Scherer is an advanced registered nurse practitioner that joined Arthritis Northwest in 2007. Scherer earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Carroll College. She has worked as a nurse in a variety of subspecialties including intensive care, emergency room, neurological/neurosurgical and pediatrics. Scherer received her master's degree in nursing at Gonzaga University.

## **WHAT IS A PRACTITIONER?**

Our Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners are healthcare professionals who work in collaboration with our doctors to evaluate and treat your medical conditions. They are fully qualified to conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, perform joint injections, and write prescriptions.

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW?**

As a patient at Arthritis Northwest, you will have the opportunity to interact with our practitioners, as well as our doctors. Having them on our team allows us to improve patient access to our clinic by offering both scheduled routine follow-ups and emergency appointments, which is beneficial because our doctor's schedules are often filled many weeks in advance. Our practitioners have also taken an interest in patient education, which is an important part of managing chronic disease, complex medications and detailed treatment plans.

On the day of your appointment with the practitioner, you will not see your physician, but he will review the practitioner's chart note, which summarizes the visit and keeps the physician informed about your condition.