



Children's
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Department of Pediatric Neurosurgery

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November 13, 2005

Gerald S. Smith
Board Counsel
Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2649

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to physician assistants. I am a physician assistant practicing at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in the Department of Neurosurgery. I have practiced as a physician assistant in Pennsylvania since 1975 and at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh since 1993. The proposed changes will allow me and my supervising physicians to more effectively provide care to our patients who are predominately children with special needs and chronic neurological problems.

The proposed regulations will remove barriers that exist in the present regulations relating to physician assistants. In my practice at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh the largest barrier to effective care has been the requirement for the physician supervisor to see each patient on every third visit or at least once a year. In a specialty practice such as neurosurgery this requirement actually creates a barrier to timely and at times emergent care.

I urge the Board of Medicine to adopt the proposed changes which will streamline but not diminish supervision of physician assistants.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bissonette PA-C

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