



Crossroads Family  
Medical Center

4131 Oregon Pike • P.O. Box 489  
Brownstown, PA 17508  
(717) 859-1123 • Fax (717) 859-2898  
(717) 859-1138 • Fax (717) 859-3885

T. Scott Jackson, M.D.  
William E. Longenecker, D.O.  
C. David Noll, D.O.  
Susan F. Northwall, D.O.  
Jonathan A. Sneller, D.O.  
Dean L. Quimby, M.D.

Erika A. DeCree, C.R.N.P.  
Kathy A. Hagelgans, C.R.N.P.  
Donna L. Kiser, C.R.N.P.

November 14, 2005

Charles D. Hummer, Jr., M.D., Chairman  
Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine  
P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Hummer:

As the primary supervising physician of a physician assistant in our family practice, I support the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18. I believe the changes will allow us to improve patient care and patient satisfaction.

For example, under the proposed revisions, the P.A. will continue to seek input from the physician supervisor when medically appropriate, but not need to additionally have the patient arbitrarily scheduled to see a physician every third visit. This regulation has at times required that a patient with a relatively simple problem be scheduled to see a physician because they had seen a P.A. twice before for other routine visits. Physician time could be better spent caring for the more medically complex patients, and patients with the relatively simple problems would appreciate being able to follow-up with the physician assistant.

The physician assistant/physician team concept is working well in our practice, but the modernization of the regulations would allow us to improve the functioning and efficiency of our team and serve our patients better. I urge the Board to adopt the proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Sarker, M.D.

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