



Melwyn Goldberg, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C), F.A.C.S.  
Vice Chairman, Department of Surgical Oncology  
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Charles Hummer, M.D.  
Chairman, State Board of Medicine  
Bureau of Occupational & Professional Affairs  
2601 North Third Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Doctor Hummer,

As an attending surgeon in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, I would like to inform you of my support of the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to physician assistants. The proposed changes will allow our physician assistants to care for patients more effectively.

The proposed changes will streamline but not diminish supervision and allow us to more fully utilize our PAs. Altering the prescription regulations will allow the PAs to provide more effective pain management for our surgical patients. The changes will allow the PAs to write orders for Schedule II drugs while they take in house call, eliminating the need to find a physician. In addition, the PAs will have the ability to discharge patients who require scripts for Schedule II drugs. Currently patient discharges are often delayed until a physician is present to write the prescription. Our department will be more efficient and patient care will be expedited if these changes are adopted.

In addition, lengthening the period of time for counter-signature from three to ten days is much more realistic for a large department like the one at Fox Chase.

Our PAs have been an asset to the Department and we believe they can function much more effectively by the adoption of these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melwyn Goldberg, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C), F.A.C.S.  
Vice Chairman, Department of Surgical Oncology  
Chief, Thoracic Surgical Oncology

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