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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
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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,

I am a physician who supervises the practice of Anitha Padala, PA-C, a physician assistant in your district. This letter is to urge you to approve regulation 16A-4961, when it comes before the Professional Licensure Committee.

The changes to the regulation of physician assistants in Pennsylvania (lengthening the time for counter signatures, changing the requirement for a physician to see a patient on every third visit, allowing PAs to prescribe Schedule II control drugs up to a 74 hour dose and removing the barrier of prescribing sympathomimetic agents) will improve the functioning of the physician-PA team. These changes will allow me and my PA to provide patient care more effectively. Patients will have better access to prescription medications once the PA regulations are clarified. Also, the delivery of care will be made more efficient by altering the time requirements for physician chart review. By allowing the patient's condition to determine the frequency of physician involvement, rather than arbitrary count, both the physician's and PA's time can be utilized more wisely. These changes will refine, but not diminish, physician supervision of PAs.

As these regulations governing our practice have not been updated in 12 years, they are ready for a comprehensive update. PAs play an important role in the delivery of healthcare in your district, and across Pennsylvania.

As a licensed and practicing physician in Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

With best regards,


Richard G. Cassoff, M.D.