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Pennsylvania Homecare Association

May 17, 2007

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

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2007 MAY 29 AM 10:17
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Staffanic:

RE: Continuing Education for Professional Nurses

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the State Board of Nursing on the proposed rule that will require nurses to complete continuing education as a condition of licensure.

In light of this recent proposed rule, the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) respectfully requests that our association, a state healthcare trade association, be included in § 21.134 Continuing education sources as an approved provider of continuing education for professional nurses.

The Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) is a state trade association representing the interests of Medicare-certified home health, private duty and hospice agencies operating in the Commonwealth. These agencies employ over 9,600 nurses who in the past year provided care to more than 700,000 Pennsylvanians.

On a typical day homecare nurses provide medical and supportive care; manage chronic conditions; and most importantly, teach and urge their patients to take an active role in managing their illness so that they can remain at home. They do all of this, essentially by themselves.

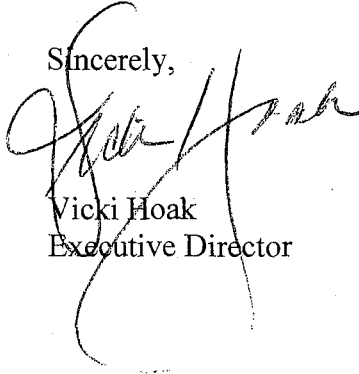
In an effort to address the unique needs of our homecare nurses, PHA has a long history of providing regular educational sessions throughout the state that enable nurses to engage in on-going professional development. Last year alone, PHA conducted more than 25 educational sessions for our homecare nurses. Topics included patient assessment; medication therapy management; disease management and the use of evidence-based protocols with chronically ill patients.

Your
partner in
bringing care
home

By including PHA as an approved provider of continuing education, homecare nurses will be able to secure the required educational units necessary for licensure while attending specialty training in their particular field.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vicki Hoak". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Vicki Hoak
Executive Director