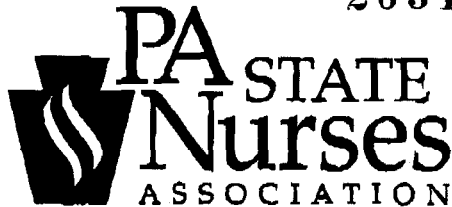


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September 24, 2007

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

Reference - Regulation ID# 16A-5131

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

The Pennsylvania State Nursing Association (PSNA) supports the recommended changes made by the State Board of Nursing for Code 21.71 and 21.72. We recognize the need to increase the number of nursing faculty so that more nurses can be educated and begin their careers.

Pennsylvania State Nurses Association has three areas of concern regarding the proposed changes. The three areas of concern are:

1. The educational preparation of the Clinical Preceptors;
2. The number of students each Clinical Preceptor oversees; and
3. The Faculty Assistant position in comparison to the Clinical Preceptor role.


One area of concern that PSNA has is the educational preparation of the clinical preceptors. PSNA recommends that educational requirements be added to the amendments so that all clinical preceptors have the same educational background as the nursing faculty. We feel that clinical preceptors must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, preferably higher in nursing.

The amendment does not specifically address the maximum number of students in which the clinical preceptor would be responsible for; it states that there would be a limited number. We feel that it is in the best interest of the preceptors, the students, and the patients they care for to have this number determined in the PA Nursing Code.


We would like clarification on the difference between the Clinical Preceptors and Faculty Assistants. It is unclear as to whether these are two distinct roles or are the same role with different names. PSNA supports the amendment to have the Faculty Assistants obtain their graduate degree in nursing within 5 years of beginning their role as a Faculty Assistant.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the proposed changes. We value the opportunity to work together for Pennsylvania's professional nurses.

Sincerely,

  
Betsy M. Snook, MEd, BSN  
Executive Director

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman

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