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November 10, 2008

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

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2008 NOV 17 AM 9:24

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

This letter is being written regarding the proposed changes in the regulations of the Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner. Regarding the proposed changes in prescribing of Schedule II medications by the CRNP, this change would allow for more cost effective care in that the patients would not have to have repeated trips to the practitioner, nor would the patient have to make several co-pays for the prescribed medication. As this medication already requires monthly renewals, the patient would be getting the required amount of monitoring and follow-up without the added expense. The proposed changes in the regulations would lead to less disruption in the lives of the patients and lead to better care of those patients who are in need of the services that Nurse Practitioners can provide.

Regarding the prescribing of Schedule III and Schedule IV medications, the nurse practitioner is already able to provide a 30 day supply of these medications so it would only make sense that they be allowed to provide a 90 day supply of the same medications. This would be especially helpful for those patients who do have the 90 day plan as part of their insurance benefit package. This change in the regulations would help to limit the amount of money needed by the patient for co-pays, and would be more cost effective for the insurance companies by decreasing the number of needed visits to the health care provider.

Sincerely,



Rhoda Garlick, RNC