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November 9, 2008
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Reference No. 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

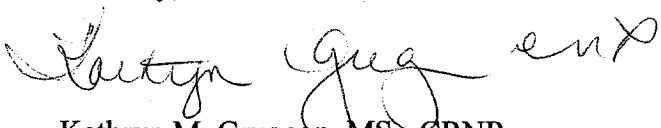
Dear Ms. Steffanic,

I am writing to you regarding the current legislation to expand CRNP prescribing practices with regard to Schedule II drugs from 72 hours to 30 days, for Schedule II-IV drugs to include 90 prescriptions, and for the ability to prescribe ADHD medications for the full 30 days. The current limitations are an extra burden for the patients that I treat for several reasons. 1.) Patients must either return to our office for the prescriptions as the physicians who I work with may not be available to co-sign. 2.) Patients must make more trips to the pharmacy as the prescription is limited which also means extra expense out of pocket for them as they are charged an additional co-pay. 3.) Many of the patients that I treat are forced to use 90 mail away drug plans and these get interrupted as the CRNP that they for their care must wait until a physician is available to sign those prescriptions. Consequently, my patients must either choose to pay extra out of pocket to get a few days worth of medication until a physician signed script is available or they must go without the medication and have interruptions to their treatment. 4.) Many of these same patients are being treated for chronic, on-going conditions. Interruption in their drug therapy causes them additional suffering and pain.

In the case of students that I treat for ADHD, it interferes with their ability to perform academically. Could you imagine trying to take scheduled exams in school and the medication that helps with your ability to concentrate is not available because your provider is only able to prescribe in a limited way? That is the reality for some of my patients due to the fact that CRNP's are currently constrained by such restrictions to practice. Needless to say, with increased economic pressures from every angle, this is an unnecessary burden to put on our already overtaxed patients.

I urge you to do all that is possible for the passage of this legislation to increase access to affordable healthcare for the patients of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Kathryn M. Grugeon, MS - CRNP