



UPMC Cancer Center

at UPMC St. Margaret

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

October 10, 2008

2729

- Peter Ellis, MD
- Mark Georgiadis, MD
- Bernard Zidar, MD
- Wen Sun, MD
- Jongmei Liang, MD
- Peggy Nikolajski, CRNP

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

I am writing in support of the proposed rule changes for Nurse Practitioners in Pennsylvania (16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions).

200 Medical Arts Building, Suite 3050
 200 Delafield Road
 Pittsburgh, Pa 15215
 412-781-3744
 Fax: 412-781-3793

Of particular importance to my practice is the change in Schedule II prescribing. I am an oncology nurse practitioner in practice with four medical oncologists. I see 15 to 20 patients a day.

Pain control is an integral part of the care of the cancer patient. Under current regulations, patients must accept the limited prescription I can give and be burdened by repeat trips to the pharmacy and repeat co-pays or wait until I can discuss their needs with a physician (often not the patients primary oncologist) to get a 30 day prescription.

Often patients and families find at the end of the day or week that they are in need of refills and the continuity of their medication is interrupted because the physician has left the office for the day. The same is true at hospital discharge if the physician forgets to complete prescriptions.

Patients undergoing cancer treatment have many physical, emotional and financial stressors. Access to needed pain medication, prescribed by someone who is familiar with their care, in a timely, efficient and cost effective manner is something all patients deserve.

Sincerely,

Peggy Nikolajski, CRNP, MSN, AOCNP



UPMC Cancer Centers works in tandem with the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, the region's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.