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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

720 Sequoia Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4239
November 16, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

I would ask that you please consider removing the restrictions that limit the nurse practitioner's ability to provide continued high quality care.

Specifically, please remove the 4:1 NP to physician ratio. This is unnecessary. Nurse practitioners are fully capable of providing quality care to their patients and know when a physician should be consulted.

Also, please consider removing the restrictions of schedule II, III, and IV prescription privileges. Nurse practitioners already write prescriptions for these medications and should not be restricted in a simple extension of their time limits. Patients can have better pain control and not overburden our emergency departments when their needs are not met. Patients cannot afford multiple copays for multiple visits needed to obtain their medications.

Please improve access to care for our patients in Pennsylvania. Changes in the regulations that allow nurse practitioners care for the people of Pennsylvania will help make Pennsylvania a healthier state. I appreciate your considerations of these needed requests.

Sincerely,

Denise Ramponi

Denise Ramponi, MSN, CRNP, DNP-S