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16A-5124: CRNP General Revisions
Attn: Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
PO BOX 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ann Steffanic,

As a Nurse Practitioner, I am contacting you in support of approving 16A-5124 CRNP General Regulations. The proposed changes will improve access to health care for Pennsylvanians while becoming more consistent with the expanded scope of practice authorized by Act 48.

The removal of the 4:1 NP to physician ratio would improve access to care which is a requirement to legally practice prescriptive authority. The four physician policy inhibits the primary care of patients in rural and center city clinics. This requirement will become even more problematic since only 2-3% of new physicians are entering family practice.

The schedule II, III, IV drug prescriptions hamper my ability to care for my patients. One of my clinics meets the needs of the uninsured and underserved individuals that live in the city of Lancaster and the surrounding communities. At times, I am unable to provide the medication needed for their mental health and acute pain concerns. I must depend on an out-of-site physician for these prescriptive needs or the patient does not receive the medications. In addition, if financial assistance is available, clients can not realize cost savings by using mail order to obtain a 90 day supply. This adds additional burden on an already financially stretched health-care system.

The proposed CRNP regulations will remove barriers to access of care for the residents of Pennsylvania.

With the goal of improving access to health care for all Pennsylvanians, approval of these Rules and Regulations will provide another step to improving healthcare for the residents of Pennsylvania.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 717- 394-7160

Sincerely, Joanne Whary MSN, CRNP

Joanne Whary MSN, CRNP