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Ann Steffanic
Board Administer
PA State Board of Nursing
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ann Steffanic,

I am a person who lives with chronic pain. I am fortunate in that I receive pain management treatment in a practice that employs a nurse practitioner. She works with me as a partner in my health care to manage my pain. However, because she is not able to prescribe a 30-day supply of my opioid pain medications I often have to wait longer than 30 minutes for the physician to sign my prescription. This delays me from getting back to my job in a reasonable length of time after an appointment. She also writes medications for me that she can write for a 30-day supply but can't put refills on. I have to call the office every month to have them refilled. If she was able to write for 90-days I could obtain them through the mail order program and save a co-pay.

My family physician was not willing to treat my pain and I am able to work fulltime now that I am receiving care from a nurse practitioner. I understand that there are proposed regulations that affect the practice of nurse practitioners in the state of Pennsylvania. I am in support of those regulations, as they will remove barriers to care and improve treatment of pain and other health conditions.

Sincerely, 