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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 24, 2008

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

Dear Ann Steffanic,

I am writing to you to discuss how the proposed rulemaking will benefit the patients under my care as well as all Pennsylvania residents receiving healthcare from Nurse Practitioners.. Presently, I provide healthcare services for adult patients in an acute care setting. Many adult patients that I care for have multiple medical problems, and are hospitalized with new problems including newly identified cancers, orthopedic injuries and other traumas. Many patients need narcotic analgesic and/or anti-anxiety medications at discharge. I can only write a three day prescription for patients suffering from fractures , cancers and painful traumatic injuries. Most patients need to wait 2-3 weeks after discharge to see their healthcare provider for a follow-up appointment. They do not have access to the medications they need after they complete the three day prescriptions filled at discharge. Orthopedic patients , trauma patients and cancer patients are suffering needlessly. Patients need to make unnecessary trips to physician providers' offices and pharmacies. Patients will have to pay for multiple office visits and multiple co-payments to acquire the same medications. In addition, physician providers are not always available or willing to write these prescriptions for patient, while the Nurse Practitioner is perfectly capable of writing the prescriptions.

Just this past week, a newly diagnosed lymphoma patient was sent home with only a three day prescription for narcotic analgesic. The patient's pain hinders their ability to urinate and walk. However, the narcotic analgesic does control the pain so the patient can participate in normal daily activities. It's a shame that he has only three days of relief and needs to wait for comfort.

The proposed rulemaking will help Nurse Practitioners provide cost effective, quality healthcare for patients suffering form cancers, orthopedic injuries and traumas. Nurse Practitioner have safely prescribed schedule II, III and IV medications under the current regulations. Physician providers should feel confident that Nurse Practitioners will continue safe prescribing practices under the new regulations.

Sincerely,



Alicia Simon CRNP