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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To whom it may concern:

As a nurse practitioner in south central PA, I can't begin to tell you how important these new regulations are to my practice. I work in a busy internal medicine practice with several other physicians. I have my own panel of chronic patients who I follow on a regular basis and as in most practices see patients with acute problems.

Many of my patients have never seen a physician in our office, especially ones who specifically came to the practice because of their ability to see an NP for their care. Unfortunately some patients have to return more frequently than would really be necessary because I can't put refills on some of their medications. This doesn't always make them happy, especially with the economy as it is today. Also some of these patients have no insurance, which makes it even more problematic.

For my adult patients with ADHD or those on chronic pain medication, I have to have a physician sign the prescription. This is unfair to the physician because he may never have seen the patient and has no idea what the patient's problem is. My collaborating physician does this, but I know he feels uncomfortable signing a prescription for someone he has never seen. If he's not in the office, for some reason, my patient may have to wait an extra day for the medications. This is unfair to the patient and certainly interrupts his or her life. This also makes it more difficult and time consuming for the staff who may have to make multiple phone calls back and forth to the patient.

As for wearing a "name badge" that spells out that I'm an NP and what that means is rather demeaning. My patients know I'm an NP because it says that on my lab coat that I wear and also that I introduce myself as such. Some are there because I am an NP and very rarely have I had a patient of one of the physicians refuse my care.

I hope my letter will help reinforce the need for these revised regulations, as they will surely benefit the many patients in Pennsylvania who rely on nurse practitioners for their ongoing healthcare. If you have any questions or if I can be of benefit in any other way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,


Jean Rudisill, MS CRNP