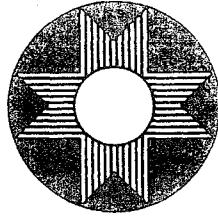


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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

TIONESTA HEALTH CENTER

Patricia Lamb MSN, CRNP
Tionesta Health Center
111 Bridge Street
Tionesta, PA. 16353

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

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

Let me introduce myself and my practice to you. I have been a nurse practitioner in NW PA since I graduated in 1995. In that time I have practiced in Titusville, a men's med/max security prison and most recently a very small and very rural community primary care office. Forest County is so small that we do not have a stop light in the county and the "joke" is that there are more deer here than people. The closest hospital is about 20 miles away. Tionesta is a vacation and retirement area for many people. I am full time and my collaborative physician is part time.

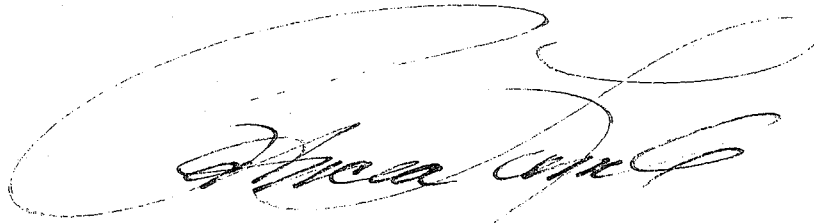
Perhaps already you can see where I may be going with this letter. My patients are all very well aware and pleased with having a nurse practitioner as their primary or regular health care provider. In a community this rural there has been a long and very positive history of NP providers. Where my patients have a problem is during those times when I need to write or renew a scheduled medication and have no physician on premise. My back-up collaborator is 20 to 25 miles away and there have been times where he has had to write the prescription and the patient has had to drive to pick it up from a physician they do not know. They are not confused about my role but they are confused about why I can write the original script but not the refills. They are upset with the inconvenience of having to travel so far to get a refill of their medication that in some cases they have been on for years.

The idea that an NP should only see patients under the closest of collaboration for problems involving multiple diagnoses, changing diagnoses, polypharmacy, angina, renal insufficiency, CHF...I was surprised to see that I would still able see diabetics and do pelvics. I don't mean to be so sarcastic but these "complicated" patients represent a significant percentage of my practice! This is Pennsylvania with an aging population and

Forest County is no different than anywhere else in PA. Most adults develop multiple chronic problems that require multiple tests, medications and frequently specialists. My patients, with all their many many problems, tell me that they appreciate the fact that I do get so many others involved in their care when it seems appropriate. They have heard me describe myself like the guy in the Verizon commercial - one guy with the huge network or system standing up behind him. My 'network' is not just my collaborative and my back-up collaborative, it is one of the area pediatricians, the neighborhood pharmacist, the physical therapist in my building, one of the area dentists, an area OB-G group, a mental health NP, the hospital surgeons...all experts in their fields and all available to help if I ask for help or advise. This actually enhances the quality of patient care I provide.

Several of my patients have indicated to me that they plan to write and I hope they do - I want them to tell you what having a nurse practitioner in this office means to them and their family and how the regulations as they are currently written interfere with their access to care.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patricia C. Lamb', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Patricia C. Lamb, MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC