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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

November 18, 2008

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am writing in support of 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions. I have worked in a nursing center established by the School of Nursing at Temple University and we are a fully accredited primary care provider for our patients. We are located in an impoverished area of North Philadelphia. We employ a collaborating family practice physician with whom to consult. It was difficult to find a physician who was willing to collaborate with us when we first began our practice which was about 12 years ago. We have retained the same physician since then who has recently written a very supportive email about us to our superiors. Limiting his ability to collaborate with only 4 nurse practitioners at a time would limit our ability to expand our practice. I support the removal of this limit to the number of nurse practitioners that a physician is able to collaborate with any given time. Nurse Practitioners are fully credentialed providers of healthcare and are responsible for their own professional decisions. We are aware of our limitations of knowledge which exist in any profession and know when to seek necessary consultation as part of our professional responsibility.

We are very careful about prescribing Schedule II or III drugs, generally consulting with our collaborating physician prior to prescribing them. Having the ability to prescribe these medications more long term would make it easier to maintain the medications that patients need as they look to us as their primary care provider and their medical home. We have frequently had to send our patients blocks away to our collaborating physician to obtain a prescription for these medications, hampering our ability to provide holistic care for our patients. It is ironic that we send them to our collaborating physician when we have more information and knowledge about them than he ever will given that we have often followed them for years! And he is then prescribing them based on our recommendation anyway, given that he has no knowledge of our patients!

I agree with the other proposed changes in the regulations, but just wanted to hi-light my support of the two issues discussed above. Given the current health care climate, it is a time to work to increase access of all to care, not to impose unnecessary limits to professions serving on the front lines of the uninsured or underinsured, working in the safety nets of our health care system! Thank you for your attention to these details

Sincerely,

Patty Hewson CRNP
Patty Hewson C.R.N.P.



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