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November 19, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am writing in support of the CRNP regulation proposal. I am a neurologist at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pennsylvania, and have the pleasure of working with nurse practitioners. I prefer nurse practitioners to physician assistants, because they are better prepared to work with patients and can function independently.

As the number of neurologists is decreasing the nurse practitioners have helped to fill the gap. I have referred patients to one of our nurse practitioners and the patient prefers to see the nurse practitioner. In general she spends more time with the patients. There is extensive patient teaching done by the nurse practitioner's that we as physicians do not have time to do. In my experience the nurse practitioner is cautious in prescribing meds and often increases doses slower than physicians. Their use of Schedule II medication is well thought out and justified.

I have reviewed the CRNP proposal and it has my full support.

Respectfully

Scott Friedenberg, MD
Interim Director
Department of Neurology
Geisinger Medical Center

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