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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 20, 2008

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

REF. # 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

I am a CRNP practicing with a single primary care physician. I have on several occasions been able to only write for a 72 hour pain prescription which has caused problems for patients. Often this occurs at the end of the week and the patient is left calling early on Monday morning needing pain medication. This is disruptive and causes undo hardship for my patients as they have to return to the office twice and have multiple co-payments for their visits and their prescriptions. This just increases health care costs in an already stressed insurance environment. Patients have been upset at times and question me as to why I can only give them a limited amount since they can obtain a full prescription from a medical doctor.

I feel that patients with acute pain, especially those on hospice, should not have limited access to their medication when they are suffering. I hereby request that the state seriously consider making changes to the current regulations so that nurse practitioners in this state can practice more effectively and have less barriers regarding controlled substances.

Sincerely,

Teresa Sokolowski CRNP

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