



Pain Specialists of Greater Lehigh Valley PC

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

Date: 11/17/08

Dear Ann Steffanic:

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed CRNP regulations, No. 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions. I have been practicing as a Nurse Practitioner for over eight years. I have been employed by Pain Specialists of Greater Lehigh Valley for my entire Nurse Practitioner career.

Throughout my career, I have been limited in practicing to my full capacity, particularly in regard to prescribing scheduled drugs. While I am able to prescribe a limited 30-day supply of schedule III-IV drugs, I am further limited to a 72-hour supply when prescribing schedule II drugs.

These current regulations are restrictive in allowing me to practice to my full potential. Additionally, I am constantly disrupting the physician in the practice to obtain a signature on prescriptions for schedule II drugs. The patient is inconvenienced as he or she must wait for the signed prescription. This often causes a hardship for the patient, as most patients take time off of work for appointments in our practice.

In dealing exclusively with chronic pain patients, the 72-hour schedule II drug prescription allowed under current Nurse Practitioner regulation is not practical or economical for patients. Therefore, as noted above, each patient must wait for their prescription to be signed by the physician. I further support the proposed regulations in regard to allowing Nurse Practitioners to prescribe 90-day supplies of schedule III-IV drugs. This will decrease co-pays for our patients and help to coordinate medication needs.

In these very difficult economic times, we all need to work together to provide expert, economical care. In passing these proposed regulations, and allowing Nurse Practitioners to practice to our full scope, we will be contributing to society for the greater good.

Sincerely,

Scarlet Lichtenwalner CRNP

Scarlet Lichtenwalner, MSN, CRNP

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