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Health & Wellness Services

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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December 1, 2008

To Whom It May Concern RE: **16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions**

My concern is the regulations regarding my practice as a Nurse Practitioner, my patients and attitudes in medicine toward our practice in Central Pennsylvania. My name is Diedra Craft and I have been a Family Medicine Nurse Practitioner for 10 1/2 yrs. As a seasoned Family and Emergency Medicine practitioner, I feel that the regulations on our prescribing of narcotics and ratio of NP's to physicians will greatly affect my practice and reflect my scope of practice.

As all nurse practitioners, our education and training include pain management or mental health care in many arenas. For me, chronic and acute pain patients deserve my full scope of practice and experience that the new regulations would give us. Some of these patients juggle their monies carefully. In select cases, Schedule III & IV drugs in 90-day portions would directly affect their lifestyle and possibly free them up for other helpful modalities.

Patients seeking ADHD/ADD/narcolepsy, etc are also affected by these changes, giving them more freedom with schedules, driving long distances at times and less of work or school time as a result.

Lastly, many of the underserved will get less care if the ratio remains the same as is currently. It is known that the primary care provider numbers, specifically family physicians and internal medicine physicians, are decreasing. Giving nurse practitioners more freedom in the above regulations will enhance people's access to care and possibly reduce health care costs by decreasing unnecessary Emergency Department visits. This is not only in rural area, but also in most every county in Pennsylvania.

My patient's over the years have generally enjoyed my care, specifically because I know my limitations. I ask questions when I need help and admit that I do not know the answer. This will not change if the regulations change. It will only enhance my relationship with my patients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diedra L. Craft, CRNP, MSN

A Healthy Balance

HARRISBURG  
2801 North Front St  
717-920-9579

CARLISLE  
1422 Trindle Rd  
717-249-6175

YORK  
1681 Kenneth Rd  
717-767-3700