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2008 DEC -9 PM 1:55

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dec 2, 2008

16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions
PA State Board of Nursing
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105

To Whom it May concern:

The proposed regulation changes are very important for PA citizens' access to care and continuity of care.

To limit collaborating physicians to no more than four nurse practitioners in collaborative relationship hinders access to care, especially in underserved rural areas and family planning clinics. In these settings there often is a severe dearth of physicians willing and/or able to provide collaboration.

As nurse practitioners, we are, as a group, very sensitive to avoid prescribing unnecessary scheduled drugs. When I was in family practice, patients with diagnosed chronic pain had to make additional co-pays because I was unable to give them their month's prescription. Students with ADD and ADHD ran out of their medications.

There are an increasing number of patients served by Hospice who need ongoing pain relief. Nurse practitioners are often providers who see these patients the most. It is common sense that the provider who knows the patient's needs the best be able to prescribe what they need.

Pennsylvania citizens need improved access to care and we, as nurse practitioners need to be able to practice to the full extent of our ability and education without barriers that serve no productive purpose.

Sincerely,

Doris Yoder CRNP

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