

**Medical Center Clinic** • INTERNAL MEDICINE • HEMATOLOGY • MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

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2729

December 1, 2008

Dear Senator Folmer,

As a Nurse Practitioner, I am contacting you in support of approving 16A-5124 CRNP General Regulations. The proposed changes will improve access to health care for Pennsylvanians while becoming more consistent with the expanded scope of practice authorized by Act 48. The removal of the 4:1 NP to physician ratio would improve access to care as there are fewer physicians to collaborate, a requirement to legally practice prescriptive authority. I have the good fortune to be in a practice with ample physician availability however, many of my colleagues in rural and center city clinics are restricted. This will become more problematic as only 2-3% new physicians are entering family practice. The schedule II, III, IV drug prescriptions hamper my care to my patients with chronic pain in my oncology/hematology practice. I deal with chronic pain on a daily basis. I am limited with the current regulations to provide adequate pain relief to my patients. This places a burden that I must seek out a physician for ongoing needs. Another patient burden is cost of medications. My limitation allowing only a thirty day supply is costly to each patient but also requires me to seek a physician to write a prescription for ninety days. This is time intensive, interrupting quality of care to all involved. Also, the cost savings to the patients in this economic climate is important. Our goal is to be able to provide the best health care to each individual patient.

I would appreciate your support in writing a letter to the PA State Board of Nursing in favor of approving the proposed regulations as proposed. As you know, they must pass the regulatory process in order for the changes to take place for final rule making. The proposed CRNP regulations would remove barriers to access of care for the residents of Pennsylvania. With the goal of improving access to health care for all Pennsylvanians, approval of these Rules and Regulations will provide another step to improving healthcare for the residents of Pennsylvania.

Written comments must be submitted to the State Board of Nursing by December 8, 2008. Please reference with:

MEDICAL CENTER CLINIC  
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KITTANNING, PA 16201  
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16A-5124: CRNP General Revisions  
Attn: Ann Steffanic  
Board Administrator  
State Board of Nursing  
PO BOX 2649

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 724-543-8657.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth Warnick, RN, MSN, CRNP, BC