

The
Occupational
Health Center



SAINT VINCENT HEALTH SYSTEM

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December 1, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

My name is Paul Dill. I am a CRNP practicing in Erie, Pennsylvania in an occupational health setting. I am writing to you in regards to the changes in the regulations that affect the practice of nurse practitioner, which has not occurred in the past eight years. The proposed changes that we are looking at, I can tell you, would make a much better outcome in my patient's well being. It would certainly have a trickle down effect with all parties in the worker's comp arena from the insurance carrier to the employer in regards to making their lives less cumbersome with more paperwork. I am referencing the prescriptions that would allow a thirty-day prescription for Schedule II controlled drugs and the ninety-day prescription for Schedule III and IV drugs.

I see anywhere from twenty to forty patients a day in a walk-in clinic that takes a lot of burden off our emergency room for work related injuries. It is a very busy practice and making patients return for refills on scripts is not only a burden to our practice, myself, the patient, the insurance company and the employer, it is a situation that is not encountered by my physician counterpart, who works with me on a collaborative relationship and yet the question why we have to continue to have patients come back for refills on any pain medicines.

I understand the ramifications and the implications of making these changes along with all the political implications that are in play at this moment. I think if we could bypass a lot of those issues, it would certainly be a much better outcome for the one party that means the most to me, and that is the patient care aspect. The last key point that I would like to address is the removal of the 4:1 CRNP to physician ratio does not directly apply to me, but looking at more of a global response here in our State in particular, our city and hospital here is Erie, PA, I would think the nurse practitioners deliver exceptional care and that has been proven to research and this would definitely be a way of accessing care for other patient population, improving the delivery of care in an area where physician shortages are noted and the future forecast doesn't look as though we are going to be getting any influx of a large amount of physician.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Ann Steffanic
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Ms. Steffanic I appreciate your involvement and I appreciate your dedication to the nursing field for Pennsylvania and hopefully with input from other of my peers, we will have an optimal outcome with these proposed regulation changes.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Dill CRNP". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paul Dill, CRNP

PD/lc