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December 1, 2008
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator, Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105
Reference number: 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

This letter is an indication of my support of the CRNP regulatory changes as proposed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. As a NP student and future advanced oncology nurse practitioner, I know my patients will benefit from this regulatory change that will extend prescriptive privileges for schedule II, III and IV drugs.

This new change will facilitate in the continuity of care which is very important all patient populations. The current regulation poses an increased co-pay charges for patients. Each prescription, despite the number of the pills prescribed, is the same co-pay. Thus a co pay for 15 pills is the same as a co-pay for 90 pills. This incurs a greater cost to the patient and to the administrative aspect with of the health care system in terms of insurance verification etc.

In addition, the current regulation that governs physicians' and NPs collaboration as ratio of 4:1 not only is restrictive but also impacts patients' quality of care and availability of care. This may be more apparent especially in larger clinic settings where there may be a need for more NPs but unable to hire because of cost of more practicing physicians. This can causes a practice to limit the number of NPs hired and also limits the full utilization of the NPs that are hired to work in that practice by under utilizing the NP to his/her full scope of practice.

NPs are academically trained professionals, credentialed by a national certifying body and usually with some sound experience of quality bedside nursing care. This cumulative training prepares them for a more general independent collaborative teamwork agreement still capable of providing quality health care. Again, I am in full support of the proposed regulatory changes by the PA State Board of Nursing.

Sincerely,



Ramona Chase, BSN, RN
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing