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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 3, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Seffanic:

As a Nurse Practitioner practicing in medical oncology for 8 years, I am contacting you in support of approving 16A-5124 CRNP General Regulations. The proposed changes will improve quality access to health care.

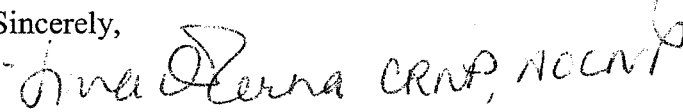
My specific concern is that working in oncology many if not all of our patients have chronic pain issues that require chronic use of long acting and short acting schedule II narcotic medications. Depending on where these patients are in their treatment they may require titration up or down in their dosing. These patients are also given schedule III and IV medications as adjunct treatment to anxiety, nausea, and pain treatment.

It is a barrier to patient care and delay in treatment when patients are seen in the office by me and the physician is seeing patients in the hospital and is not immediately available to provide medication changes. It is within my scope of practice to provide these patients the proper medications that they need. Allowing for revisions in the ability to write a 30-day supply of schedule II and 90-day supply in schedule III-IV medications is safe and needed in a busy oncology practice.

In allowing for the above revisions it would ease patients access to quality care, decrease the cost to the patient in eliminating multiple prescriptions with co-payments, office visit charges, and emotional distress thinking that they will not be able to have their proper pain medications filled in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Lisa DiPerna MSN, CRNP, AOCNP