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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

16A-5124: CRNP General Revisions
Attn: Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Date: December 05, 2008

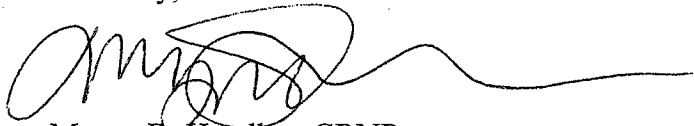
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to address several proposed changes affecting CRNP regulations.

First, the ability of nurse practitioners to prescribe a 30-day supply of schedule II medications would provide benefit to patients. I currently work with an Orthopaedic Surgeon. Many times, patient follow-up visits are spaced out at 2 to 4 week intervals. I see post-operative patients who are prescribed class II drugs for pain management. Medication only prescribed for seventy-two hours necessitates patients calling or coming back to the office before their routine appointments due to the need for more pain medication. This is an inconvenience for patients who are experiencing pain secondary to recent surgery or acute injury.

Second, many of our patients are experiencing pain when they come to us, whether it is from recent injury or trauma or from chronic problems, such as arthritis and degenerative diseases. Some of these patients require frequent use of schedule III & IV medications for effective pain management. Being able to write for a 90-day supply of such medications would benefit the patient in several ways. It would eliminate co-pays for unnecessary office visits, as many times patients are only presenting for prescription refills. It would reduce the number of pharmacy co-pays. In turn, patient frustration could be kept at a minimum.

Sincerely,



Megen R. Handley, CRNP