

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

34th Street and
Civic Center Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104-4399
215-590-1000
www.chop.edu

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December 4, 2008

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

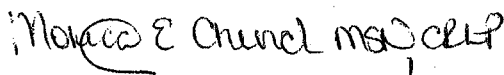
Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am writing in support of 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions. It is essential to practices throughout the state that the current CRNP regulations be revised. The regulations as they stand inhibit CRNP practice and ultimately hinder the care we provide to patients. I am sure that the current CRNP regulations affect thousands of patients statewide but I would like to share one example of how it affects the children I care for in my practice.

The Nuss Procedure is a minimally invasive operation performed to correct chest wall deformities in children. It involves the placement of a stainless steel bar under the sternum to transform a concave chest into a normal, flat appearing chest wall much like braces on one's teeth. As you can imagine, these children have an enormous amount of pain and often require an epidural, a PCA and muscle relaxants post-operatively. While this acute management is done in the hospital, these children will usually require oral analgesics (narcotics) for up to three weeks after discharge. However, as a CRNP we can only write for 72 hours worth. Finding a physician in a busy academic institution to sign a prescription often delays the child's discharge adding to the many unnecessary costs of healthcare. In addition, if changes need to be made once the child is home, it often delays the change by up to 24 hours. It does not seem appropriate to give a prescription that is good for 72 hours only to make that parent pay a second co-pay and another trip to the pharmacy in order to make their child comfortable. This is one small but repeated example of the hindrance this regulation places on our practice.

It is time to change the Pennsylvania State CRNP regulations.

Very truly yours,



Monica E. Church MSN, CRNP
Lead Advanced Practice Nurse
The Division of General, Thoracic and Fetal Surgery