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State Board of Nursing
Reference Number 16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions

I am writing to support the proposed rules and regulations for Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP).


I am President of the Board of Directors of a free healthcare clinic in Butler County. We see patients who are ineligible for government-funded healthcare. They are the "working poor", working but unable to afford health insurance. The top diagnoses of these patients are diabetes, hypertension, arthritis and depression. They are provided primary medical care, diagnostic testing and pharmaceutical agents if necessary at no charge. Our paid primary care provider (PCP) is a CRNP. We also have other providers that volunteer their services but we cannot afford a physician to be the PCP. The CRNP works within her scope of practice based on her education and experience to provide exemplary care to our patients. Most free clinics in PA take advantage of CRNPs to provide cost effective quality healthcare to those in need of services.

The clinic takes advantage of the Prescription Assistance Program that many pharmaceutical companies provide for indigent patients. All of these programs REQUIRE a thirty day fill with two refills when the paperwork is filed. That is why eliminating the thirty day limit with no refills for Schedule III-IV drugs for CRNPs is crucial for the patients seen at free clinics. This issue definitely impacts the patient and affects the health and welfare of PA consumers.

It is also a burden to have the collaborative physician's name on the prescription pad. This information is readily available on the BON website. Many CRNPs work in multiple sites with different collaborative physicians. This requirement means that the CRNP must have multiple pads for each different site. This is an unnecessary expense for the institutions where she/he works. Also, the pharmacist may also put the wrong prescribers' name on the prescription bottle. This creates confusion for the patient. This affects the welfare of the patient and is a safety issue.

This is an opportune time to remove those barriers to practice that prevent CRNPs from practicing to the full extent of their educational preparation, knowledge and experience. Pennsylvania consumers need to be able to avail themselves of the services that these qualified healthcare professionals can provide without the restrictions that have impeded their practice.

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