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16A-5124: CRNP General Revisions  
Attn: Ann Steffanic  
Board Administrator  
State Board of Nursing  
PO BOX 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

2008 DEC 10 PM 1:44

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

As a Nurse Practitioner, I am writing in support of approving 16A-5124 CRNP General Regulations. The proposed changes will improve access to health care for Pennsylvanians while becoming more consistent with the expanded scope of practice authorized by Act 48.

The removal of the 4:1 NP to physician ratio would improve access to care as there are fewer physicians to collaborate, a requirement to legally practice prescriptive authority. I have the good fortune to be in a practice that this is not a problem but many of my colleagues in rural and center city clinics are restricted. This will become more problematic as only 2-3% new physicians are entering family practice.

I have had the experience of working in a pain center. This pain center's care included both medical and interventional management of pain syndromes. The schedule II, III, IV drug prescriptions hamper my care to my patients with chronic pain. As you may know, schedule II drugs can only be prescribed for a 30 day period. When my collaborating physician went to India for a period of 2 weeks, our patients did not receive the proper care they needed.

Pain centers are few and far between, with most pain centers only performing interventional procedures. I have been a nurse for 15 years; I have received pain management education from a nurses' prospective in undergrad then again as a nurse practitioner. I cared for patients in pain for 8 to 12 hours assessing their pain and doing all I can to help relieve pain. Allowing nurse practitioners with the experience and education to prescribe as other health care providers including physician assistants would help to alleviate the unnecessary burden to our patients.

With the goal of improving access to health care for all Pennsylvanians, approval of these Rules and Regulations will provide another step to improving healthcare for the residents of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Wendy Mortimer, MSN, CRNP