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03-Dec-2008

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

As a physician board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, I am writing in support of the rule making changes that are proposed for our CRNP colleagues. These revisions that will update the current regulations governing the practice of nurse practitioners in the state of Pennsylvania will help remove barriers to care for our patients.

As an internist and a member of the medical staff at Abington Memorial Hospital, I have had the opportunity to work with a CRNP for the last 10 years. My experience working with the nurse practitioner has been extremely positive and I am supportive of any regulatory changes that would allow her to practice to her full scope of practice without undue burden.

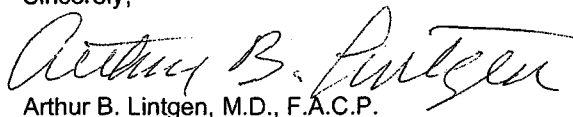
Specifically I have reviewed and am in support of the following changes:

- 1. Allowing 30 day prescriptions for schedule II controlled substances rather than the present rule allowing only a 72 hour prescription.**
- 2. Allowing 90 day prescriptions for schedule III to schedule IV rather than the present 30 day rule.**

These changes will remove the hardship for patients who are unable to take advantage of cost saving mail order prescription plans that require ordering in larger supplies when their care is provided by a nurse practitioner. Additionally it will prevent delays that patients encounter when the CRNP seeing the patient is unable to write for a full prescription and a physician must be interrupted to write the prescription.

In summary, I support the revision of regulations that govern nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania. It has been my experience that CRNPs provide high quality, cost effective, safe care that results in a high level of patient satisfaction. These barriers create an unnecessary burden on our patients. The proposed regulations are an important step toward better access to care for our Pennsylvania residents.

Sincerely,


Arthur B. Lintgen, M.D., F.A.C.P.