

**Palliative & Supportive
Medicine Program**
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December 10, 2008

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Director

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

RE: Proposed changes to CRNP Practice

Dear Administrator Steffanic,

I write this letter to request your support with the proposed changes to CRNP practice. The proposed changes would negatively affect a mutual goal of enhanced and improved patient care:

1. Allow 30-day prescriptions for Schedule II and 90-day prescriptions for Schedule III and IV controlled substances: The current limitations on NP Practice severely restrict our CRNP's ability to provide comprehensive palliative care to patients. This can dispense with patients unfairly needing to fill additional prescriptions. It will be especially advantageous for our elderly and disadvantaged patients who often cannot afford the increased expenditures needed to fill and obtain multiple three day prescriptions..
2. Removal of the 4:1 CRNP to Physician ratio: Patient care can be compromised because of an arbitrary ratio. In a collaborative practice, this ratio is unwarranted.

Sincerely,



Neil m. Ellison M.D.