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Section Of General Internal Medicine

Independent Regulatory Review Commission;

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman

333 Market Street

Harrisburg, PA-17101

December 4, 2008

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am a Fellow in the American College of Physicians, a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine and have been a physician practicing in the state of Pennsylvania since 1994. I work at Temple University where I am in a collaborative agreement with nurse practitioners. I do support the changes in the proposed legislation in Reg No 16A-5124 in regards to changing the regulations around prescriptive authority of the nurse practitioners in our collaborative agreement.

Nurse practitioners are essential to providing care to our HIV-infected patients and are trained in all aspects of HIV care, including the use of scheduled drugs for pain control and anxiety. It is unrealistic and burdensome to patients to coordinate care through practitioners who are limited to a 72 hour dose of a controlled substance when an MD or DO would be able to prescribe a 30-day supply. This requires that patients return to see the collaborating physician more often than is necessary to provide good care. In addition, many insurance companies require 90-day supplies of unscheduled medications, and the prescriptive authority of CRNPs should be increased to allow providing these prescriptions as well.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary van den Berg-Wolf'.

Mary van den Berg-Wolf MD, FACP

Associate Professor of Medicine

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