

2729

December 7, 2008

RECEIVED

DEC 12 PM 1:22

From:

Carol Huennekens, CRNP
628 Blair Rd.
Bethlehem, PA 18017

To:

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

Dear Ms. Steffanic,

I am a nurse practitioner and am writing in support of the **16A-5124 CRNP General Revisions**. The goal of nurse practitioners, as with all health care providers, is to provide safe, cost effective, individualized health care that is available to all who need it. These proposed CRNP General Revisions support this goal and should be approved.

Studies have shown that nurse practitioners are a vital piece of the health care system. Over the years strides have been made in CRNP regulations, but these new regulations will allow us to provide even more cost effective care and also improve access to care for Pennsylvanians. The current ratio of 4:1 whereby a physician may only collaborate with four nurse practitioners is restrictive in situations such as clinics and Planned Parenthood sites. The limitation of only being able to prescribe Schedule II drugs for 72 hours and Schedule III-IV for 30 days is a hardship for patients. For Schedule II drugs they must come in a pick up a prescription if they need the medication for longer than three days, and for those requiring Schedule III-VI drugs for longer than 30 days they cannot take advantage of cost savings that many 90 day prescriptions provide.

With both the state and federal governments planning to work toward health care coverage for all, more than ever nurse practitioners will be needed to help provide that care to a suddenly much larger number of people. These proposed General Revisions will enable us to provide that care more effectively and efficiently.

Sincerely,



Carol Huennekens, CRNP