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Submitted via email

June 17, 2015

Chairman John Mizner  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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IRRC

**RE: #16a-5425: Collaborative Management of Drug Therapy**

Dear Chairman Mizner,

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) supports the enactment of regulation #16a-5425 in its final form. This regulation will help advance patient care by allowing pharmacists to be more of an integral partner of the healthcare team and to really collaborate with physicians for effective medication therapy management.

Allowing the opportunity for pharmacists, under a collaborative agreement with a physician, to assist the physician in closely monitoring and managing a patient's medications will result in improved patient outcomes. With patients living longer and taking more medications to control chronic conditions, the need to effectively manage patient care is more critical than ever.

There are many studies available which highlight how the combined role of a physician-pharmacist team enhances patient care, improves outcomes, and reduces overall healthcare costs. Such collaborative practice is already ongoing in many other states and we look forward to engaging in these agreements here in the Commonwealth. Pharmacists are medication experts who have proven they can assist physicians and our patients with ensuring safe, appropriate, cost-effective medication use.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at [pepple@papharmacists.com](mailto:pepple@papharmacists.com) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Epple, CAE  
CEO

CC: IRRC Members