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State Board of Nursing
ATTN: Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

I am a neurologist at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pennsylvania. I have the pleasure of working with a number of nurse practitioners. I work closest with the nurse practitioner in our office. We have a large population of Multiple Sclerosis patients and our clinic nurse practitioner is certified in Multiple Sclerosis. The majority of Multiple Sclerosis patients are referred to the nurse practitioner for education and med management. She makes the decision on the immune modulating therapies including Tysabri and the chemotherapy drug, Novantrone. Once the nurse practitioner prescribes the medication, she follows the patients and manages the symptoms of multiple sclerosis. These are complex patients with symptoms of fatigue, spasticity, weakness, bowel and bladder difficulties, pain and multiple disability needs. There are multiple medications required for each of these and of course cross the Schedule II and Schedule III drug classes. It is often difficult to find a neurologist to cosign these meds and often patients are forced to wait for scripts or have the prescriptions mailed to them when a physician is not available to sign the script.

We are a rural healthcare facility with at least a 100 mile radius referral range. Patients may drive up to two hours to see a provider here. In order to provide the care needed nurse practitioners need to have expanded prescriptive authority. I support the proposed CRNP regulations.

Sincerely,

Carl Hoegerl DO
Associate
Department of Neurology
Geisinger Medical Center

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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