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November 15, 2005

Charles D. Hummer, Jr., M.D. Chairman
Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Hummer:


As the physician supervising Jason Zinn, PA-C practicing family medicine here in Hanover, Pennsylvania, I would like to urge you to consider the proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to the practice of physician assistant.

I feel that the requirement for the supervisor to see each patient on every third visit or at least once a year is very difficult to practice religiously. This is a very arbitrary and artificial standard that does not work well in daily practice. Sometimes it even forces patients to seek extra and unnecessary visits just to comply. As a supervising physician, I am ever mindful of my need to be involved directly in the care of my patients. I really think that I need to be allowed more discretion when deciding how often I personally see each patient.

The other regulation changes involve the amount of time allowed to review PA work and also the ability of PA's to prescribe controlled substances, let alone more common drugs such as Sudafed or Albuterol. Again, these changes are most necessary to allow for appropriate PA function and effective realistic supervision.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter. I sincerely hope your board adopts these proposed changes!

Sincerely,


John Lunsford, M.D.

JWL/bk

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