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The Offices of
Dr. William J. O'Brien III

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Dear Dr. Joseph Gallagher Jr.,

I am writing in support of the proposed regulations to allow prescriptive authority to Physician Assistants (PA s) supervised by Osteopathic Physicians (DO s). I have worked with several physician assistants over the past few years and I am confident that PA s have both the knowledge and training necessary to manage prescription medications. Physician assistants have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic (MD) physicians for years. PA s receive the same training regardless of whether they will be supervised by a DO or an MD. PA s continue, as always, to work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. I believe that Osteopathic Physicians should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their physician assistants as our allopathic colleagues.

PA s will be more valuable to DO s with prescriptive authority, meaning more practices may hire a PA. This will in turn improve access to care by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing the physician more time to focus on more complicated cases. DO s will be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices if they are able to supervise PA s with delegated prescriptive authority. Access to care will be improved because PA s who are supervised by DO s will be able to practice to the full extent of their training.

Physicians will decide what medications, if any, their PA will be permitted to prescribe. The regulations should be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice.

I fully support the proposed regulations to allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescriptive duties to the PA s they supervise.

Sincerely,


 Michael B. Fischer, D.O.

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