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NO. 9-004 REGULATORY
FEB 20 2008

Dear Joseph Gallagher Jr., D.O.,

I am writing in support of the proposed regulations for delegated prescriptive authority for physician assistants under the supervision of osteopathic physicians originally published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 20, 2007. I am an Osteopathic Physician (DO) and I have been working with three physician assistants for several years. 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. The regulations should be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. Further, I believe that individual physicians should decide what medications, if any, their PA should be permitted to prescribe.

I am confident that a PA has both the knowledge and training to manage prescription medications. 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.

Pennsylvania is currently the only state that does not allow PA s to prescribe under the supervision of a D.O. I fully support the proposed regulations to allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescriptive duties to the PA s they supervise.

Sincerely,

Brent M. Nickischer, D.O.

