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The Offices of  
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Dear Dr. Joseph Gallagher Jr.,

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. As an Osteopathic Physician (DO) supervising a physician assistant (PA) for 6 years, I am confident that a PA has both the knowledge and training to manage prescription medications. Physician assistants have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic (MD) physicians for years. PAs receive the same training regardless of whether they will be supervised by a DO or an MD. PAs 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.

PAs will be more valuable to DOs 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. DOs will be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority. Access to care will be improved because PAs who are supervised by DOs 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 PAs they supervise.

Sincerely,

Christopher Belletieri, D.O.

