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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

March 10, 2009

Joseph C. Gallagher, Jr., DO
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

RE: Prescriptive Authority for Physician
Assistants Under the Supervision of
Osteopathic Physicians

Dear Dr. Gallagher:

I am a physician assistant who has been practicing in the state of Pennsylvania since 1975. I have had the opportunity to work with both osteopathic and allopathic physicians. I currently have prescriptive authority with an allopathic physician supervisor. However, I also have an osteopathic physician supervisor but, unfortunately, do not have prescriptive authority under his supervision.

This letter is being sent to advise that I have reviewed the amendments to the proposed regulations that were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 20, 2007 and I strongly support these regulations as amended..

By passage of this regulation, access to care will be improved because the physician assistants who are currently supervised by osteopathic physician will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. Allowing a physician assistant to have prescriptive authority under an osteopathic physician would help alleviate some of the barriers to care by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing physicians time to focus on more complicated cases. Physician assistants work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety.

I thank you for the opportunity to address this matter with you and ask for your consideration in the passage of this proposed regulation.

Sincerely,



James W. Kohlmeier, PA-C

