



**Lehigh Valley**  
Infectious Diseases  
Specialists



*Affiliated with Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network*

1250 S. Cedar Crest Blvd. • Suite 200 • Allentown, PA 18103  
610-402-8430 • fax 610-402-1676 • Keystone Travel 610-402-8433

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Luther V. Rhodes, III, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Mark C. Knouse, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Marcelo G. Gareca, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Jaan P. Naktin, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Eric T. Young, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Daniel H. Monkowski, M.D.  
Deepti Verma, M.D.  
Margaret Hoffman-Terry, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Emily L. Wong, M.D., Ph.D.  
Suzanne J. Templer, D.O.

March 4, 2009

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

Dear Doctor Gallagher,

I would like to write in full support of proposed amendments by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania to its regulations 25.142 and 25.162 including adding 25.177-25.178, regarding physician assistants and their ability to prescribe and dispense drugs, pharmaceutical aids, and devices; medical records.

As Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pa, licensed to practice medicine in Pennsylvania since 1970, I can attest to the improvement such an amendment will make to medical for residents of this state.

I have supervised physician assistants for nearly three years directly, and have worked with them daily for many more years. The Osteopathic physicians I have been associated with in my division have essentially identical training and skills as the allopathic physicians. There is no reason to not entrust the supervision of PA s to the same cadre of Osteopathic physician providers who take full responsibility for patient care every day.

In addition to my duties at Lehigh Valley Hospital, I was a consulting physician at the Osteopathic hospital in Allentown for 3 decades. My duties and observations at that site further augment my enthusiasm for this endorsement.

Respectfully,

Luther V. Rhodes, III, MD, FACP, FIDSA  
Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases  
Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network  
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103

