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MAR 05 2009

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

GEISINGER  
HEALTH SYSTEM

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

March 5, 2009

Dear Dr. Gallagher:

I have been a practicing physician assistant in family practice in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, for the last 14 years. I work under the supervision of both osteopathic physicians and allopathic physicians and have found the regulation that I cannot write a prescription while under the supervision of an osteopathic physician burdensome and a significant barrier in my ability to provide care to patients in this community. If I am working with an osteopathic physician and feel my patient needs a prescription, I need to excuse myself from my current patient and interrupt the osteopathic physician in order to obtain a prescription. In a busy clinic day, this process can take an inordinate amount of time.

My fellow physician assistant colleagues and myself have been safely prescribing medications under the supervision of allopathic physicians for many years. I believe the studies have shown our prescribing habits to be safe and effective and have enhanced the delivery of healthcare to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

I strongly urge you to support the proposed changes to the regulations of the Osteopathic Board concerning the supervision of physician assistants.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Schaeffer, PA-C, MPH  
Physician Assistant, Certified  
Family Medicine

TBS:jl

D/t: 3/5/09

