

ABBY A. JACOBSON, MS, PA-C

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Commissioner Basil L. Merenda:

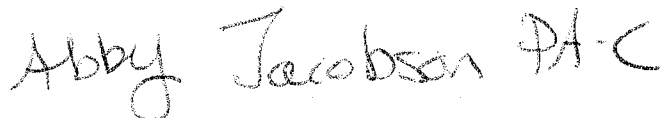
This purpose of this letter is to express my support for the Osteopathic Board of Medicine to adopt identical prescribing regulations for physician assistants (PAs) practicing with the supervision of Osteopathic physicians. The current regulations are a severe barrier to patient access to care and create an unfair environment for our patients. PAs have been prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians safely for years. Mirroring these regulations for Osteopathic physicians will reduce barriers to healthcare.

PAs are dedicated to the physician led team approach to medicine. Allowing PAs to prescribe as part of the DO/PA team will improve healthcare for many patients in Pennsylvania by reducing wait times for appointments or in the ER. It will also allow patients to have access to a provider familiar with their medical history when their Osteopathic physician is out the office. Together the DO/PA team allows the physician to focus on more complicated cases or preventative care. Right now, I practice under the supervision of allopathic physicians in a dermatology practice. I see a large population of acne patients, which require my ability to prescribe various topical acne medications. It would not be possible for me to treat these patients if I worked for an Osteopathic dermatologist. Allowing me to see their acne patients in turn allows my dermatologists to concentrate on more complicated cases such as the detection and treatment of skin cancers.

As a graduate from the PA program at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and a long time patient of DOs, I am strongly tied to the Osteopathic profession. It has always saddened me, that we are the only state across the US that would not allow Osteopathic physicians to fully utilize PAs should they choose to. I worry that the current regulations make DOs undesirable candidates to join hospitals and practices that currently use or plan to use PAs. This may also be a reason for DOs to decide not practice in Pennsylvania.

I strongly urge the Osteopathic Board of Medicine to adopt *identical prescribing regulations for physician assistants practicing with the supervision of Osteopathic physicians.*

Sincerely,



Abby A. Jacobson
Physician Assistant - Certified

CC: Dr. Fasano & Governor Edward G. Rendell

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