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RURAL HEALTH CORPORATION
OF NORTHEASTERN PA

An affiliate of WYOMING VALLEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

1084 Route 315 • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-7012 • 570-825-8741 • Fax: 570-825-8990

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION
October 22, 2007
OCT 25 2007

Black Creek Health Center

PO Box 670
Nuremberg, PA 18241-0670
Medical: 570-384-3201
Dental: 570-384-3238
Fax: 570-384-3454

Valley Pediatrics

Thomas P. Saxton Medical Pavilion
468 Northampton Street
Edwardsville, PA 18704-4599
570-288-1188
Fax: 570-288-4061

Exeter Township Health Center

RR 1, Box 301
Falls, PA 18615-9781
570-388-6151
Fax: 570-388-2046

Freeland Health Center

404-406 Ridge Street
Freeland, PA 18224-1805
Medical: 570-636-1556
Dental: 570-636-1010
Fax: 570-636-0985

Monroe-Noxen Health Center

Route 29
RR 1, Box 174
Noxen, PA 18636-9766
Medical: 570-298-2121
Dental: 570-298-2161
Pharmacy: 570-298-2121
All services: 836-5533
Fax: 570-298-2148

Shickshinny Health Center

26 North Main Street
Shickshinny, PA 18655-1302
570-542-4141
Fax: 570-542-2580

BILLING INFORMATION:

Valley Pediatrics
Monroe-Noxen Health Center
Shickshinny Health Center
Exeter Township Health Center
570-829-3413 or 829-3414
Black Creek Health Center
Freeland Health Center
570-455-4755

Charles P. Fasano, D.O.
State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing to you in support of the proposed regulations that would allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescriptive authority to physician assistants. For the past 14 years, I have worked full-time as a physician assistant for Rural Health Corporation of Northeastern Pennsylvania. In this position, I split my time between two federally-qualified health centers providing quality care with my supervising physicians to a mostly underserved population.

Under the direction of my supervising physician at the one center, I have safely prescribed medications for the past 14 years, as many PAs have done under their allopathic supervising physicians.

At the second center, my original supervising physician was also an allopathic physician. When an osteopathic physician became my supervising physician, the inability to prescribe medications, as I had previously done, became a huge barrier to quality care. Since this is a one physician rural practice, the physician is not always on-site when patients are being seen. Patients now had to wait for the physician to come on-site or be contacted to call in prescriptions. Occasionally, if a chart was taken to make a referral or order a diagnostic test, a script may be forgotten because it wasn't given at the time of the visit.

Osteopathic physicians should be allowed the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority as their allopathic counterparts. In this way, PAs can practice to the full extent of their training and the physician-PA team can provide safe, quality healthcare to their patients. Furthermore, the osteopathic regulations should be identical to the allopathic regulations to avoid confusion and disparity.

Respectfully,

William Reynolds, PA-C

William Reynolds, Jr., MPAS, PA-C

cc: Governor Edward G. Rendell
Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner