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1605 Ridgeview Drive
Somerset, PA 15501
October 23, 2007

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2007 NOV 14 AM 9:14

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

Please support passage of the proposed regulation changes for physician assistants (PA's), as outlined in the October 20 issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. DO's and MD's do not have differences in their regulatory practices, and their physician assistants should not, either. If osteopathic and allopathic PA regulations are worded identically, there will not be any confusion about who is allowed to do what and when. If that statement is confusing, now you know what the existing regulations have been like for PA's.

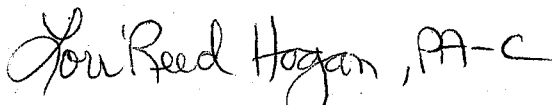
Having worked in a family practice with both DO's and MD's, there was a difference in clinical practice. When an MD was my supervisor that day, I signed my own prescriptions unless it contained Sudafed or Fluoride. When the DO was my supervisor, patient flow slowed because I had to wait for the doctor between patients to get each prescription signed.

Physician assistants have been safely prescribing with MD's since 1993. Earlier this year, barriers were removed to allow fuller privileges. If the allopathic and osteopathic regulations are worded identically, confusion would be eliminated for the PA, the doctor, and the pharmacist.

The formulary would still be individualized for each practice, allowing each doctor to decide the drugs he or she is comfortable having the PA prescribe.

Please finish the process started in 1978 and approve the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,



Lori Reed Hogan, PA-C

cc: Basil L. Merenda; Gov. Edward G. Rendell