

Rimersburg Medical Center Rural Health Clinic

57 E. Broad Street, Suite 2
Rimersburg, PA 16248

Jeffrey P. Karls, D.O.
Lindsay K. Hepler, PA-C

(814) 473-3191
Fax (814) 473-2250

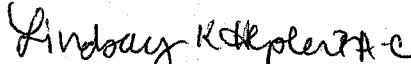
2644

October 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support new legislation delegating prescriptive authority to physician assistants whose primary physician supervisor is an osteopathic physician. PA's that work with M.D.'s have been able to prescribe medications (at the discretion of their supervising physician) for years in Pennsylvania. All physician assistants receive the same training and thus I believe should have the ability to equal practice parameters when they go into practice regardless of whether they work with a D.O. or an M.D. As a physician assistant currently working in an area that is primarily staffed with osteopathic physicians and is supervised by an osteopathic physician, I can state with absolute certainty that this is a significant barrier to my practice of medicine. I must seek approval for each and every prescription from my supervising physician before giving it to the patient. This limits access to care for our patients and greatly takes away from time actually caring for and seeing patients for both myself and my supervising physician. I am in support of each osteopathic supervising physician deciding to what extent each PA they supervise will have the ability to prescribe. As has always been the working relationship with physician assistants and physicians, PA's seek to work collaboratively with physicians, regardless of whether medical or osteopathic, not autonomously. Both physicians and physician assistants wish to provide the best and most efficient care for their patients. I ask that you approve legislation allowing equal practice for all physician assistants in Pennsylvania. Physician assistants that are supervised by M.D.'s have proven over many years that having prescriptive authority is an asset to their patients and supervising physician. They have proven that they have make wise decisions in their prescribing practices and take this responsibility very seriously which has allowed them to be able to prescribe for so many years. As a physician assistant that is supervised by an osteopathic physician, I ask that you approve legislation permitting physician assistants supervised by osteopathic physicians to have prescriptive authority.

Sincerely,


Lindsay K. Hepler, PA-C

RECEIVED
2007 NOV 16
INDEPENDENT
REVIEW BOARD