

Charles P. Fasano, D.O.
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

OCT 26 2007

October 24, 2007

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Dear Dr. Fasano,

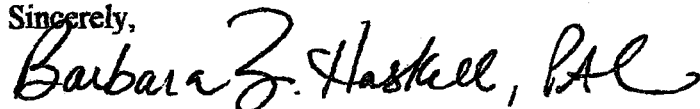
I am writing to express my support for the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for Physician Assistants (P.A.s). Our relationship to our supervising physicians as dependent practitioners allows us to work in partnership together to extend quality medical care to Pennsylvania citizens. We truly view our role as true physician extenders. It is this team approach to the practice of medicine that ensures patient safety in all aspects of our clinical duties, including prescribing.

As you know, P.A.s have had prescriptive privileges under allopathic physicians for many years. Osteopathic physicians who wish to employ P.A.s should have the ability to delegate prescriptive authority should they so desire. Such ability to delegate comes with many benefits. P.A.s who are able to prescribe will be able to practice to the fullest extent of their training, thus liberating their supervising D.O.s to see and treat more complex patients. Also, if D.O.s are able to delegate this authority, they would be more likely to hire a P.A. as it is currently undesirable to do so if the P.A. is unable to write prescriptions for patients which, as you know, is a large part of daily practice. All of this leads to increased access to care for patients as the P.A. can absorb many patients into daily time slots while being able to address more of the patients' needs without unnecessarily consulting the physician for each and every prescription. In the end, each physician will still decide whether she/he chooses to delegate this authority to the P.A. It is my belief that D.O.s should have the choice to do so and this proposal will allow for that choice.

These proposed regulations should be worded exactly as those currently in the allopathic regulations to avoid confusion in clinical practice.

I thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Haskell, PA-C

cc: Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
Governor Edward G. Rendell