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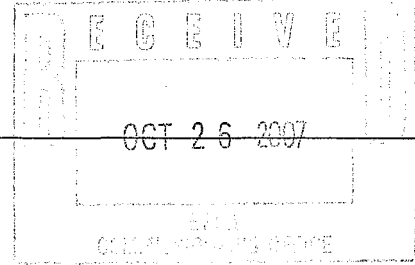
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

10/24/07

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Dear Basil L. Merenda:

After receiving a notice from the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants today regarding the proposal for prescriptive rights of physician assistants under osteopathic physicians, I was eager to express my all positive opinions regarding the issue.

Working as a physician assistant since 1998 and a registered nurse for over a decade prior to that, it is evident what avenue I have chosen for my career. Twice since being licensed as a physician assistant I have worked with an osteopathic physician. I am presently in this situation in a family practice setting. In the past the arrangement with a D.O. was so frustrating, with the prescribing rights being the most troublesome area, that I had to seek further employment. Choosing my present position was difficult, but I had faith that the PSPA and the Osteopathic Board of Medicine would soon see the light!

A D.O. supervising a physician assistant is a thorn in the flesh for healthcare that frequently leads to only a short employment agreement period. A physician assistant with no prescribing rights cannot practice anything near what they were trained to do, thus also inhibiting their supervising physician. How often does a provider see patients and expect not to write prescriptions? Besides physicals patients come for care which usually includes medicines. When a physician assistant requires his supervising physician to entirely take that responsibility it only causes havoc. Frustration and poor organization goes right down the line with all of the office staff when patient care is held up and not completed due to the need for medicines that seems to be a law only in our state of Pennsylvania. Many times in the past I have recommended to physicians seeking a mid-level provider that they hire a nurse practitioner only because of this point. With the lack of this authority proper and organized care cannot be accomplished from the hospital, office, or any setting.

PA's have safely been prescribing medications under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. It is way past time for us to be allowed to do the same under the authority of osteopathic physicians. We do not expect any extraordinary freedoms just the same guidelines that we utilize under the supervision of MD's. Patient care will be much more organized, cost effective, and better overall for the patients and anybody involved in the healthcare field with PA's and DO's.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hollenbach, PA-C