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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed regulations to allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescription writing to PAs they supervise, in the same manner that allopathic physicians have done. As you know, the proposed regulations were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 20, 2007. The regulations should be worded exactly the same for both allopathic and osteopathic physicians. This will ensure continuity of patient care, especially in practices that employ DOs, MDs, and PAs and will avoid confusion at the pharmacy level. This will alleviate any issues as to which physician is the primary supervisor on any given day. Access to care will be improved since PAs who are supervised by DO will be able to practice to the full extent of their training.

I support these regulations for many reasons and I will mention a few of those reasons. First of all, I want to point out that PAs have been safely prescribing with the supervisions of allopathic physicians for several years. As always, the fact that PAs work with physician supervision ensures patient safety. PAs receive identical training, whether they will be supervised by a DO or an MD. It follows then, that osteopathic physicians should be afforded the same opportunity to delegate prescriptive privileges as allopathic physicians.

In addition, PAs will be more valuable to DOs with prescriptive authority; more practices will be able to hire a PA, knowing that they are able to more completely care for their patients. This will increase availability of appointments and allow the physician more time to focus on more complicated cases. I also believe that DOs will be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices if they are allowed the privilege of delegating prescriptive authority to PAs they supervise.

I thank you for your consideration of this important improvement to the delivery of quality healthcare in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Jocelyn Hook, MPAS, PA-C

CC:

Basil L. Merenda
Governor Edward G. Rendell