

PHILADELPHIA FAMILY MEDICINE ASSOCIATES P.C.

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Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
P.O. Box 2649,
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Physician Assistant Rx privileges


Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed regulations for allowing Physician Assistants who are supervised by Osteopathic Physicians prescribing privileges. I want to voice my encouragement for you to have such provisions approved. Firstly, Osteopathic physicians (DOs) should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues. This difference in our capabilities hurts my practice and may suggest MDs are more qualified than me to oversee a PA. It is also my understanding that PAs have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians (MDs) for years and PAs receive the same training whether they will be supervised by a DO or an MD.

Next I encourage you to enact the regulations exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. By doing this I feel access to care will be improved because PAs who are supervised by DOs will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. I also believe PAs will be more valuable to DOs with prescriptive authority, meaning more practices may hire a PA. This will in turn improve access to care by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing the physician time to focus on more complicated cases. I suggest DOs will also be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority allowing more hiring of DOs by hospitals if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority.

I hope you feel the same way I and many others feel regarding this piece of legislation and approve these measures.

Truly yours



Joseph P. DiRenzo D.O.

INDEPENDENT REGULATOR
TERRY OAKMANSON

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