

2644

October 30, 2007

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

RECEIVED

2007 NOV 14 PM 1:29

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

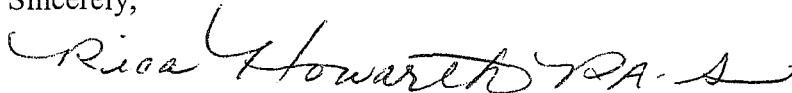
Dear Dr. Fasano:

After attending the PSPA conference this year, it came to my attention that prescriptive privileges are not allowed for physician assistants whose supervising physician is a D.O. Not only did this awareness come as a shock but also an insult to PAs, D.O.s and simple logic. Although I am an Alaskan resident, I find this quite troubling for PAs in Pennsylvania, and plan to research this further in my own state. Regardless, it makes very little sense that a PA could write prescriptions one day under an M.D. but the next day could not write the exact same prescription if him or her were working with a D.O. Clearly, if PAs can safely write under an M.D., they are no less capable under a D.O. Both an M.D. and a D.O. are quite capable of supervising the prescriptive rights of PAs and, therefore, I implore you and the Osteopathic Board of Medicine to consider making the prescribing rights identical to those mandated under an M.D.

Such restrictive regulations under a D.O. provide substandard care for patients who see PAs. Time spent looking for a D.O. to sign scripts could be better spent seeing more patients, allowing more time with individual patients, and decrease waiting times for patients, which is always a complaint. Furthermore by allowing equal rights, much confusion would be eliminated for PAs who work under both an M.D. and D.O.

Also, as a student, I have spent considerable time learning about medications and how to write scripts as do all other PA students. Will this knowledge simply be wasted if I decide to work under a D.O.? I certainly hope not! Can such barriers impede my ability to be hired or work effectively with the knowledge I have struggled to learn, paid for, and am eager to employ? The future of students and patients is in your hands, so, what will you choose to do?

Sincerely,



Rica Howarth PA-S
Saint Francis University
Physician Assistant Student

CC: Basil L. Merenda and Governor Edward G. Rendell