

GASTROENTEROLOGY

Norman N. Cohen, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Steven Lichtenstein, D.O.

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

November 2, 2007

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I strongly support regulations that would allow physician assistants (PAs) to prescribe under the supervision of Osteopathic Physicians. I have been supervising physician assistants for years and would completely trust their ability to prescribe medications. PAs are highly trained medical professionals who are well trained to prescribe medicine. We are not fully utilizing their capabilities. For years, PAs have been safely and successfully prescribing medications under physician supervision with Allopathic (MDs) Physicians in Pennsylvania and *with Osteopathic Physicians in every state besides Pennsylvania!*

Not allowing Osteopathic Physicians to utilize PAs to the same extent as MDs puts Osteopathic Physicians at a disadvantage. We are less desirable employers for PAs since they have all been educated and trained to prescribe medication. DOs might become less desirable candidates for ERs, hospitals, and private medical practices that already employ or plan to hire PAs.

There are approximately 900,000 adults and children without insurance in Pennsylvania alone. This number doesn't even begin to address those who are *under*-insured or don't have access to a healthcare provider (such as a specialist). Fully utilizing the DO/PA team will allow us to improve access to healthcare for patients across the state. Our current regulations do *not* allow supervising Osteopathic Physicians to maximize the benefits that are possible in the DO/PA team. I strongly encourage the Osteopathic Board of Medicine to adopt *identical* regulations for the prescriptive authority of PAs supervised by Osteopathic Physicians.

Sincerely,



Steven Lichtenstein, D.O.

Director, Division of Gastroenterology  
Medical Director, Endoscopy/GI Lab  
Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital (Mercy Health System)

Chief of Staff, Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital (Mercy Health System)

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

CC: Governor Edward G. Rendell & Commissioner Basil L. Merenda