

University of Pennsylvania Health System

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**CHOP Newborn Care at
Pennsylvania Hospital**

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

4 November 2007

Dear Dr. Fasano:

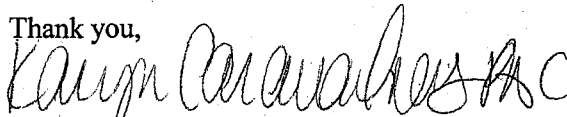
As I am sure you know, recently there have been regulations proposed to allow physician assistants to prescribe medications under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. I am writing to you in avid support of this legislation.

I work in a neonatal intensive care practice which includes allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants all working together as a team to care for our patients. We aim to keep the care as fluid and consistent as possible, no matter what combination of physician and mid-level practitioner are working together at any given moment. Though there are some regulatory differences that cannot be changed, those that can would be of utmost benefit to making our group, and many others like ours, a consistent, seamless practice. With the current prescriptive authority differences we sometimes find that rather than being able to focus solely on the care we are giving our neonates, we are instead focusing on who is working with whom, and what can and cannot be ordered. This, of course, is not the way care should be.

All physician assistants are trained in pharmacology and are very capable of ordering medications. This practice has been going on for years in our state when practicing with allopathic physicians, and has been a huge benefit to those patients for whom we care. Each practice determines which of the legally eligible medications the physicians deem appropriate for their physician assistants to prescribe and include those in their written agreements and hospital privileges. In addition, physician supervision is always available in one form or another when consultation is needed.

Granting physician assistants prescriptive authority under osteopathic supervision, with the same exact regulations as those for allopathic supervision, will allow many practices across the state to utilize both physician assistants and osteopathic physicians more readily and improve the care of our patients greatly. Please support this legislation!

Thank you,


Karyn Caravoulas, PA-C

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