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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano,

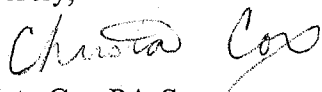
I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the prescriptive privileges of Physician Assistants in Pennsylvania. In 1993, allopathic physicians were given delegated prescriptive authority to allow their physician assistants to prescribe medications to patients should they so desire. However, if a PA is being actively supervised by a D.O., they lose that ability and are not permitted to prescribe or dispense any medications. I think that the Osteopathic Board of Medicine should support the changes being proposed regarding these prescriptive privileges for a variety of reasons.

As a PA student I find it insulting that there is even a discrepancy about it. How is it possible that a PA has enough training and knowledge to prescribe medications to a patient while being supervised by an MD, but then all of a sudden is unequipped enough to not do the same thing when being supervised by a D.O. A perfect example that comes to my mind is if there is a PA working in an emergency room. If the supervising physicians shift changes and a D.O. takes over, does that mean that the practicing PA's smorgasbord of knowledge all of a sudden decreases. That he or she has lost the ability to rationally think out and prescribe adequate meds to their patients. PA's have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. I think everyone would benefit if the Board extended these privileges to include PA's working under the supervision of a D.O. Not only would the PA's have more rights, but they will then in turn be more valuable to the D.O.'s. Thus, more D.O.'s might hire a PA. This could then potentially improve their practices by decreasing the patient's amount of waiting time, increase availability of appointments, and allow the physician more time to focus on complicated cases.

Moreover, this one change could mean more potential job openings for future PA's in the state of Pennsylvania. Over the years there has been what is know as the "Brain Drain" of well-educated graduates leaving Pennsylvania for better opportunities. This change could open a door and increase the new graduates' likelihood of staying in the state if they know that they are going to be able to work to their fullest potential.

Therefore, I think it is time that the Osteopathic Board of Medicine pass this proposal and allow physician assistants in Pennsylvania to have the same prescriptive privileges while being supervised by a D.O. as they do while working under a M.D. I hope you will take my thoughts into consideration and take a step towards improving the PA profession in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Christa Cox PA-S

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