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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

This letter is in regards to the proposed prescribing regulations for physician assistants. As an osteopathic physician, I support the new regulations that grant physician assistants prescriptive privileges.

I practice as an otolaryngologist, head and neck surgeon, and facial plastic surgeon with a solo physician practice that serves three counties. Over one year ago I employed a physician assistant to help provide services to this rural, underserved area. We have worked closely together each day to provide outstanding care to our patients.

There will be certain benefit in my physician assistant having prescribing privileges. She could provide a complete service to our patients, which would improve access to care for the patients of our area. This would give my practice the ability to help more of those who need our services, decrease patient wait times, and allow me to focus more of my attention on difficult and complicated cases. These benefits would translate to all groups employing the service of a physician assistant, and would improve access to care for patients throughout the state.

I feel strongly, as you do, that physician assistants should remain under the supervision of a physician. I work closely with my physician assistant, reviewing her medical decision making and patient interactions to ensure appropriate care is being provided. This supervision would most certainly continue if she had prescription privileges.

In closing, I am confident in my physician assistant's abilities and knowledge base, and would absolutely support changes allowing physician assistants to prescribe medications under the supervision of an osteopathic physician. These should mirror those regulations of our allopathic counterparts, and ultimately be determined by the supervising physician as they best know and understand their PA's capabilities.

Respectfully,


Elliott Bilofsky, D.O., F.A.O.C.O.

cc: Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
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Governor Edward G. Rendell
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Harrisburg, PA 17120

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