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CC: Basil Merenda, Governor Edward Rendell

November 6, 2007

Dr. Charles Fasano,

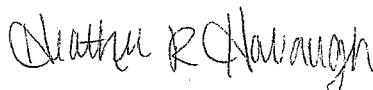
Osteopathic physicians are compared to allopathic physician on an everyday basis, with that comes the typical stereotype that MDs are superior to DOs. Both have received extensive training in order to receive their prestigious title, and both are equally qualified. My question is then, why can a Physician's assistant prescribe under an allopathic physician and not an osteopathic physician? Osteopathic physicians should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as allopathic physicians do. This situation just feeds into the typical stereotype of the MD being the better doctor.

All PAs receive the same standardize training across the state and have to pass the same boards. They are all equally qualified. This being the case then, why does it matter who our preceptors are? PAs have been safely prescribing under the supervision of MDs for years. There is no reason, that this will not be the case with DOs. I find it ridiculous that if a PA is working in the emergency room under the supervision of a MD, he or she is fully qualified to prescribe, but the moment a DO walks on the PA has to change his or her entire way of practicing. It is as if with the supervision of a DO, a PA's hard work, knowledge and accomplishments go out the door when the MD goes home. Having a PA who can fully practice is beneficial to the physician. If allows more patients to be seen in the office, waiting times would be reduced, and patients would receive better quality care because there visit will not be rushed. This would also give physicians time to focus on the complicated cases.

Another positive to allowing PAs to prescribe is the potential job openings. Under these current conditions a PA would never want to work under a DO, its almost degrading. With these job openings people would not have to leave the state in order to get a high quality job. As a student this is very important to me. This would not only create jobs in the future for me, but it would increase the chances of working in a clinical rotation near my home town. Not only is allowing PAs to prescribe under a DO's supervision beneficial to the PA it is beneficial to the DOs as well. DOs will become more valuable to patients, hospitals and practices, therefore creating more jobs for them.

I think it is bizarre that the physician assistant profession has been around for years, and it still has pointless drawl backs preventing the PA from working to their fullest potential. These are just a few of the benefits a PA can provide with prescribing privileges. It overall would increase the quality of health care setting. This would better our patients by providing better quality care, while giving the physician a break.

Sincerely,



Heather Hobaugh PA-S