

Northeastern Rehabilitation Associates, P.C.

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Physical Medicine &
Rehabilitation

Main Office Locations:

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5 Morgan Highway, Suite 4
Scranton, PA 18508
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Fax: (570) 969-9280

John Heinz
Rehabilitation Campus
150 Mundy Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
(570) 824-0930
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Park Plaza
3400 Bath Pike
4th Floor, Suite 400
Bethlehem, PA 18017
(610) 954-9400
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Wayne Memorial Medical
& Professional Complex
600 Maple Avenue, Suite 3
Honesdale, PA 18431
(570) 253-1005
Fax: (570) 253-7868

Additional Locations:

Tunkhannock

Hazleton

East Stroudsburg

Williamsport

Reading Area

Allentown

Quakertown

Harrisburg

Glenside

Towanda

Lancaster

State College

Havertown

November 6, 2007

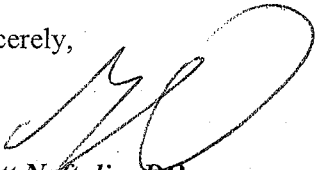
Charles P. Fasano, DO
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
Post Office Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I have recently become aware of the proposed regulations regarding delegated prescriptive authority for Physician Assistants working under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. I fully support the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for Physician Assistants. These regulations should be worded exactly as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. It should be noted that Physician Assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. Osteopathic physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their Physician Assistants as their allopathic colleagues. Physician Assistants always work with physician supervision which ensures patient safety. Access of care will be improved as Physician Assistants currently supervised by osteopathic physicians will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. Additionally, osteopathic physicians may be more likely to hire a Physicians Assistant when they are given prescriptive authority. These hiring practices will in turn remove some of the barriers to care due to reduced waiting times, increased appointment availability, and allowing the physician to focus on more complex cases. Additionally, the hiring of osteopathic physicians by hospitals and clinical practices may increase if osteopathic physicians are allowed to supervise Physician Assistants including delegated prescriptive authority. Lastly, the individual physician should be able to decide whether his or her Physician Assistant will prescribe or not and which drugs they will be permitted to prescribe under their authority.

In short, I support the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for Physician Assistants. As stated above, these proposed regulations will only improve care for the citizens of our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,


Scott Naftulin, DO
Board Certified, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Subspecialty Certification in Pain Medicine

SN/sm

CC: Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner
Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
Post Office Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

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Harrisburg, PA 17120