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Northshore Clinical Associates, LLC

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November 6, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am writing in support of proposed changes to regulations regarding delegation of prescriptive authority to physician assistants (PAs) supervised by osteopathic physicians. I have worked with my supervising physician, Jeffrey Esper, D.O. for over 10 years. During this time we have developed a relationship based on mutual trust and respect for each others' abilities. We work as a team, co-managing patients within the scope of our neurology practice. While we have managed to work within the confines of the current regulations, the proposed changes would enhance our ability to efficiently treat our patients. Patients often have to wait to receive their prescriptions until the doctor is available to sign them. This can unnecessarily delay their treatment and interfere with patient flow.

Additionally, several of my substitute supervising physicians are allopathic physicians, which can create some confusion as to my approved duties. My training as a PA included a significant number of hours in pharmacology. Those PAs supervised by allopathic physicians have been safely prescribing with M.D. supervision for years, with the same training as I have received.

The discrepancy between the regulations of the two boards regarding PA practice and prescribing privileges can be confusing to those providers outside of the state. I was trained in New York, and both myself and my original employer in Pennsylvania were somewhat confounded by the limitations of the Osteopathic Board's regulations.

Delegation of prescriptive authority will improve access to care for our patients, without any loss of quality of care. My prescribing pattern would be essentially the same as that of my supervising physician, given that my practice is really an extension of what he does.

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Charles Fasano, DO
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Thank you for your consideration in approving these important and much-needed changes to the current regulations.

Sincerely,



Holly E. Skala, PA-C
Northshore Clinical Associates
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Erie, PA 16507

C: Basil Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
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