

2644



SAINT FRANCIS
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED 1847

RECEIVED

2007 NOV 16 AM 10:00

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 6, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am writing this in support of the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants that were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 20, 2007. I have been a PA for more than 10 years and I see only positive outcomes to these regulations.

The proposed prescribing regulations will allow the osteopathic physician – physician assistant team to care for patients more effectively. Foremost, patient access to care can only be improved when PAs who are supervised by DOs will be able to practice within the full extent of their training. This will result in better access to care by decreasing waiting time for patients as well as increasing the overall availability of appointments.

From an educational standpoint, a physician assistant receives the same training whether they will ultimately be supervised by a DO or MD. When considering employment, a PA will often accept a similar position under an allopathic physician instead of an osteopathic physician because of the lack of prescribing regulations in place. These regulations will not only make PAs more likely to accept more positions with DOs, the DOs may be more inclined to hire a PA to expand their practices. In turn, practices may be more likely to hire a DO if they are able to supervise a PA in the same capacity as an MD.

As you may or may not be aware, physician assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of MDs for years. And it is the individual physician that will ultimately decide what medications his or her PA will be permitted to prescribe within their scope of practice. Osteopathic physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their allopathic colleagues.

As a licensed physician assistant in Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to support these proposed regulations using the exact language as in the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion. Thank you for your time and consideration in this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy Wright, MPAS, PA-C

CC: Basil L. Merenda
Governor Edward G. Rendell

Department of Physician Assistant Sciences

P.O. Box 600, Loretto, PA 15940-0600 Phone: (814) 472-3020 Fax: (814) 472-3137
www.saintfrancisuniversity.edu