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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

*A hospital of University of  
Pittsburgh Medical Center*

November 6, 2007

110 North Main Street  
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<http://www.upmc.edu>

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

RE: Prescriptive Authority for Physician  
Assistants Under the Supervision of  
Osteopathic Physicians

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am a physician assistant who has been practicing in the state of Pennsylvania since 1975. I have had the opportunity to work with both osteopathic and allopathic physicians. I currently have prescriptive authority with an allopathic physician supervisor. However, I also have an osteopathic physician supervisor but, unfortunately, do not have prescriptive authority under his supervision.

This letter is being sent in support of the proposed regulations that were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 20, 2007. The language in Annex A mirrors that of the allopathic board and should be maintained. Keeping the language the same for both allopathic and osteopathic will avoid any confusion in clinical practice.

Physician assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. This same privilege should be granted to the physician assistants who are under the supervision of osteopathic physicians.

By passage of this regulation, access to care will be improved because the physician assistants who are currently supervised by osteopathic physician will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. Allowing a physician assistant to have prescriptive authority under an osteopathic physician would help alleviate

Charles P. Fasano, DO  
Page 2

some of the barriers to care by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing physicians time to focus on more complicated cases. Physician assistants work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety.

Bear in mind, the individual physician will decide whether his/her physician assistant will prescribe (or not) and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe.

I thank you for the opportunity to address this matter with you.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Kohlmeyer, PA-C

cc: Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner  
Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

Governor Edward G. Rendell