

2644

RECEIVED

Tuesday, November 06, 2007

2007 NOV 16 PM 3:03

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing this letter to support the recently proposed regulations that allow prescriptive privileges to physician assistants in the state of Pennsylvania who work under an osteopathic physician. The regulations should be the same as the regulations for PAs working under the supervision of an allopathic physician. This will help avoid any unnecessary confusion in clinical practice.

PAs have been working and safely prescribing medications under the supervision of MDs for years. PAs receive the same training whether they are supervised by a MD or a DO. It is logical that a PA working for a DO who has the same qualifications as a PA working for an MD should also have the same prescriptive privileges.

Physician assistants with prescriptive privileges are valuable to the health care system. If these proposed regulations are put into action PAs could be more useful to a DO and it is more likely for them to be hired by a DO. With more PAs working for DOs it will improve the quality of care to the patients by decreasing wait times for the patients, increasing availability of appointments and allowing more time to be spent on individual cases. Another advantage would be the increase in job opportunities for PAs in Pennsylvania. Many PA's graduate from college in this state but relocate for more job opportunities. I know as a PA student at Gannon University I would be more likely to stay in state if the job opportunities were available and if I could work to my fullest potential. I would move out of state for a job rather than stay in state and work without prescribing privileges.

It would be beneficial to the healthcare system, the state of Pennsylvania, and to all practitioners if physician assistants working under osteopathic physicians had prescriptive privileges.

Sincerely,

Catherine A Walczak PA-S

Catherine Walczak, PA-S

CC: Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
P.O Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17150-2649

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120