

Gannon University  
PMB#943  
109 University Square  
Erie, PA 16541  
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Charles P. Fasano:

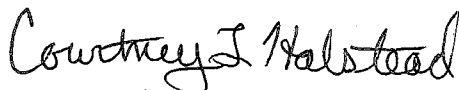
PAs have been safely prescribing medicine with the supervision of allopathic physicians (MDs) for years. All PAs receive the same training, whether they will be supervised by an osteopathic physician (DO) or an MD. So, why is one allowed to prescribe medicine and the other is not allowed?

The osteopathic regulations should be worded the exact same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. DOs should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues. This would improve the access to care because PAs, who are supervised by DOs, would be able to practice medicine to the full extent of their training.

Most PAs see patients without the physician present, which helps with the maldistribution of physicians. Therefore, osteopathic physicians should be able to delegate prescriptions to PAs they supervise. If they would be able to do this, just think about how many more patients would be able to be seen and taken care of daily. It would also reduce the waiting times, increase availability of appointments, and allow the physicians time to focus on more complicated cases. DOs would also be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices.

If both MDs and DOs were able to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs, this could increase the potential job openings for PAs in Pennsylvania. And as a PA student I would be more inclined to stay in Pennsylvania if I could work to my fullest potential, whether working under a DO or an MD. This would also help slow down the number of well-educated graduates leaving the state for better opportunities.

Sincerely,



Courtney L. Halstead