



November 7, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I was pleased to see that the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine is considering proposed changes to the osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants. I strongly support this change.

As a director of an occupational medicine unit and an urgent care setting, it has always been a bit confusing and problematic when a physician assistant is working with both osteopathic and allopathic physicians within the same office. The new regulations should be worded exactly as the allopathic regulations to remedy this confusion in clinical practice. Osteopathic physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to the PAs as the allopathic physicians. The PAs would continue to be supervised by the physician to ensure patient safety. My experience shows that the collaboration between the PA and the physician is a benefit to both the patient and the physician.

Since a majority of osteopathic physicians in Pennsylvania provide primary care services, this would allow the physician to improve access, productivity, and efficiency. It would help to attain the goals set forth by Governor Rendell.

Sincerely,

Eugene T. McElwee, Jr., D.O.

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