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November 8, 2007

Basil L. Merenda  
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs  
P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Commissioner,

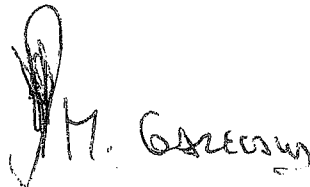
My practice is currently made up of 7 MD's and 4 PA's, beginning next July, we will be adding our first DO into the practice. Under the current Pennsylvania osteopathic regulations, PA's do not have prescribing privileges under DO supervising physicians. I think this is an area in need of change.

Consider changing osteopathic regulations to exactly match the allopathic regulations which delegates prescriptive authority to their PA's. By doing this, osteopathic supervising physicians can begin to utilize PA's to the extent they were trained, to improve access to patient care, increase availability of appointments, and allow the physician time to focus on more complicated cases.

Currently under MD supervision, PA's have been safely prescribing for years, and if the osteopathic regulations mirror those of the allopathic regulations, then each physician will decide which prescriptions his/her PA is permitted to prescribe.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Marcelo Gareca, MD



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