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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Charles P. Fasano,

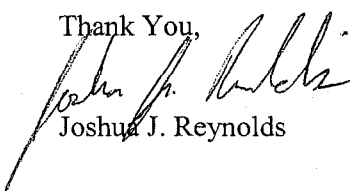
Practicing medicine demands continuous education in any health career. To maintain the high standards placed on medical professionals, the physician-physician assistant team requires collaboration and a strong working relationship. A physician assistant's (PA) scope of practice is determined by state legislation and delegation of duties from a supervising physician. I am a physician assistant student at Gannon University. I believe Pennsylvania legislation should grant physician assistants the ability to prescribe medication while working for a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) to ensure quality health care.

As a student I am currently thinking about life after college. I have already begun to address future career choices including the location and specific field in which I want to practice. Increasing the duties of a physician assistant makes the career more attractive. I feel my persistence and growing knowledge of the medical field should be used to its fullest potential. I am more inclined to practice in a setting in which all of my abilities will be used. Granting physician assistants working for a DO the ability to prescribe drugs will prevent highly educated persons from leaving the state to practice elsewhere.

Physician Assistants are trained through the same route as physicians using the medical model. The requirements for practicing as a PA are consistent throughout the country. There is no difference in the training of a PA working for a Doctor of Allopathic Medicine (MD) than a PA working for a DO. Physician assistants working for a DO will be able to maintain the holistic approach DOs use in medicine by being allowed to prescribe medication. Physicians are currently using a combination of allopathic and osteopathic medicine to treat patients. This "merging" can be reinforced by allowing physician assistants in an osteopathic setting to prescribe medication like their counterparts in an allopathic setting.

Passing legislation for physician assistants to prescribe medication in an Osteopathic setting will improve health care as a whole. Doctors of Osteopathy will be able to devote more time to their patients thus improving the health care system. Health care teams will strengthen, Pennsylvania will maintain an effective health care system, and patient care will greatly improve.

Thank You,

  
Joshua J. Reynolds