

November 12, 2007

2644

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing in support of the proposed osteopathic regulation changes for prescriptive authority by physician assistants under the supervision of an osteopathic physician. I am a recent graduate of Chatham University Physician Assistant Program and have been working under the supervision of an allopathic endocrinologist for just over one month. I am in support of the proposed changes because physician assistants working under osteopathic physicians will be given the same prescriptive authority already granted by their allopathic colleagues. These changes will allow PAs to carry out the full extent of their training under both osteopathic and allopathic supervising physicians.

Approval of the proposed changes will improve access to care in the Commonwealth among its residents. Osteopathic physicians may be more likely to hire a PA if they have prescriptive authority. Likewise, hospitals and practices may be more likely to hire a D.O. if they are able to supervise a PA with delegated prescriptive authority. The end result will be reduced wait times, increased availability of appointments, and more availability of the physician to their more complicated cases.

Physician assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. Under the proposed changes, the supervising osteopathic physician will ultimately decide whether the PA will prescribe or not and will also decide the drugs which may be safely prescribed by the PA. Therefore, I stress the importance of maintaining the exact wording as the current regulations for prescriptive authority under allopathic physicians to both maintain continuity and to avoid confusion in the clinical practice setting.

Thank you for your time and for considering these regulatory changes.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn M. Postreich PA-C*

Kathryn M. Postreich PA-C

cc: Basil L. Merenda  
Governor Edward G. Rendell

INDEPENDENT REGULATION  
HEALTH COMMISSION

2007 NOV 26 AM 10:07

RECEIVED

