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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing to support the changes in the Osteopathic Physician Assistant regulations to allow physician assistants working with osteopathic physicians to write prescriptions for their patients. Physicians and physician assistants work as a team to provide cost effective, compassionate health care to their patients. Physician assistants have a 40 year history of working as a team member with their supervising physicians and in my opinion this is the only appropriate model for utilization of mid-level providers.

As you are aware, allopathic physician have had the ability to delegate authority for PA's to write prescriptions for their patients. Since 1993, there have been millions of prescriptions written by physician assistants safely, within the standards of care and within their scope of training and practice. Recent changes in the allopathic regulations expanding those abilities are proof that prescription writing by PAs has been done responsibly and with patient safety in mind. Prior to my moving to Pennsylvania, I served in the U.S. Navy for 22 years. As a PA, I had the privilege of prescribing medications to my patients and served on the hospital Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. The pharmacy and the P&T Committee routinely monitored the appropriate utilization by the physicians, PA's, nurse practitioners and independent duty hospital corpsman. These audits proved that all these professionals did take this responsibility seriously and did so with patient safety in mind.

As an educator of physician assistants, I can attest to the importance of patient safety that is stressed to my students. The mission of the physician assistant program at Lock Haven University is place health care providers into underserved areas within the Commonwealth. We are fortunate to have a Doctor of Pharmacy teaching our pharmacology course, which is integrated within all our modules. The Accreditation Review Committee (ARC-PA) requires that all PA programs provide training in pharmacology for PA students. Patient safety and education of patients are inherent in the training requirements.

I continue to practice as a PA with supervision in a mixed allopathic and osteopathic emergency medicine group. It can get very awkward when I am able to write prescriptions for patients when my supervisor is a MD, and then have to stop at shift change, when a DO takes over. The osteopathic physicians I have to privilege of working with agree that they should have the authority to delegate these duties to the PA's.

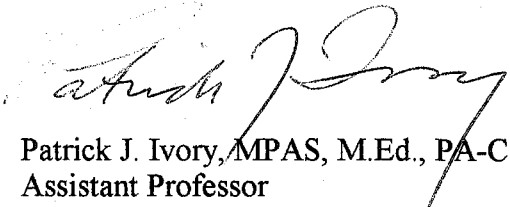
As a past president of the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants, I would encourage the Board to have the osteopathic regulatory language for prescription writing

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to mirror that of allopathic regulations. This would not only allow for consistency, but would reduce the possibility of medical errors at the point of dispensing.

The physician/PA team will continue to provide quality health care to our patients within the Commonwealth. Allowing osteopathic physician to delegate prescriptive authority to their PA's will improve access to care for the citizens of the Commonwealth while preserving the supervisory relationship within the DO/PA team. I want to thank you for taking the leadership role in implementing these regulations.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Ivory, MPAS, M.Ed., PA-C
Assistant Professor
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
School of Graduate Studies
Physician Assistant Program

cc: Gov. Edward G. Rendell
Commissioner Basil L Merenda

