

Allison Marinak PA-C
RR1 Box 603
Altoona PA, 16601

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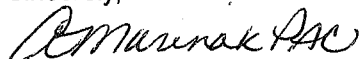
November 13, 2007

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

Dear Commissioner Merenda:

I am writing to request your support of the proposed regulations for delegated prescriptive authority for Physician Assistants under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. While my primary supervising physician is an allopathic physician, I also practice with two osteopathic physicians. To avoid confusion in clinical practice, it would be helpful if osteopathic regulations were worded the same as allopathic regulations. Physician Assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. Osteopathic physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues. As always, the PAs would continue to work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. Under the proposed regulations, the individual physician will be able to decide whether his or her PA will prescribe and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe. This would potentially improve patient access to care because PAs who are currently supervised by DO's will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. Furthermore, osteopathic physicians will be more likely to hire a PA when they are given prescriptive authority and this will in turn remove some barriers to care by reducing waiting times and increased availability of appointments, while allowing the physician time to focus on more complicated cases. These proposed changes may make hospitals and practices more likely to hire osteopathic physicians if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority. Your support of the proposed regulations would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Allison Marinak PA-C
Altoona Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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