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Charles P. Fasano, D.O. 2007 NOV 28 PM 1: 53
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649 REVIEW COMMISSION


November 14, 2007

Dear Charles P. Fasano, D.O.

I am writing to you in support of the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants. These regulations should be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. PAs have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. Osteopathic physicians should be granted the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues.

I have been the Medical Director of the State Correctional Institution at Albion , PA since its inception in 1993. I have worked closely with PAs since 1995 in the state prison system; we provide competent, compassionate, and cost effective medical care for inmates that others have chosen not to care for. PAs are the backbone of a state prison medical department. PAs work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. Access to medical care will be improved with the regulation changes because PAs currently supervised by DOs will be able to practice to the full extent of their training.

Osteopathic physicians may be more likely to hire a PA when they are given prescriptive authority. This will result in reduced patient waiting times, insure appointment availability and allow the physician time to focus on more complicated cases. Hospitals and physicians practices may be more likely to hire osteopathic physicians if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority. Each physician will decide whether his/her PA will prescribe (or not) and also what medications the PA will be permitted to prescribe. This regulation has been a long time coming and is in our patients best interest.

Sincerely, 
Mark D. Baker, DO
Medical Director
State Correctional Institution
At Albion, PA.

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