

Annville

November 15, 2007 *Caring for Life™*

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing as a substitute Supervising Physician in support of the proposed changes regarding osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants. As you know, physician assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. I feel that Osteopathic Physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues. PAs already work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. This added authority will only improve access to care because PAs who are currently supervised by DOs will now be able to practice to the full extent of their training.

I also support the proposal to incorporate the same wording in the osteopathic proposal as is currently used in the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice.

Additionally, I believe that osteopathic physicians will be more likely to hire a PA when they are given prescriptive authority. This in turn will remove some barriers to care due to reduced waiting times, increased availability of appointments, and allow the physician time to focus on more complicated cases. Hospitals and other practices may be more likely to hire osteopathic physicians if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority.

Of course the individual physician will make the final decision whether his/her PA will prescribe or not and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David W. Heeter, D.O.
DWH/gao

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

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CC: Mr. Basil Merenda