

2644

November 15, 2007

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

RECEIVED

2007 NOV 28 PM 1:52

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Charles Fasano,

I am writing in support of the recent proposal to allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescriptions to physician assistants they supervise. I believe physician assistants have proved themselves to be more than competent in handling such responsibilities. First of all, PAs have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. They work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety, and they receive the same training whether they are supervised by an allopathic or an osteopathic physician.

Not only do the current restrictions limit PAs, but they also hinder productivity of osteopathic physicians. If they were permitted to delegate prescribing authority to physician assistants, they would have more freedom and time to spend on other responsibilities. Access to care will be improved because physician assistants who are supervised by DOs will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. PAs will be more valuable to DOs with prescriptive authority, therefore, more practices may hire physician assistants. This can help reduce patient waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing the physician time to focus on more complicated cases.

To be specific, the regulations should be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid confusion in the clinical practice. Furthermore, each physician should decide whether his/her PA will prescribe and what drugs he/she will be permitted to prescribe.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. I hope you will take these important points into consideration when making your decision regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Jessica Snyder PA-S

