

Charles P. Fasano, D.O.
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
November 6, 2007

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano,

It has recently come to my attention that the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Board of Medicine has proposed regulations to allow prescription authority to be delegated to all physician assistants by osteopathic physicians. This has come as great news to myself and my peers, and I would like to express my full support for these regulations to be implemented.

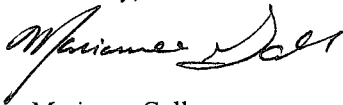
As we all know, PAs practicing in Pennsylvania currently have prescriptive authority able to be delegated to them by allopathic physicians. Time and practice has shown that, under the proper supervision and discretion of an MD, this authority has helped make physician assistants a valuable asset to the practices in which they work. They enable more patients to be given care, and allow the physician to give more of their attention to complex cases. The success of this practice is facilitated by the extensive training the PAs receive.

Currently, the use of this training is not being fully utilized by those physician assistants working under DOs, even though it is the same training received by the PAs working under allopathic doctors. It follows logically that allowing osteopathic physicians to access the full ability of their PAs would bring about the same advantages mentioned above, in addition to several others. This change would make PAs more valuable to the DOs under which they work, helping their offices to run more smoothly and increasing the availability of appointments. More practices will be able to hire a PA, increasing potential job openings in Pennsylvania and persuading new graduates to seek employment in the state. DOs will also be made more valuable, both to their patients and to the medical facilities in which they practice, if they are able to supervise physician assistants with the authority to prescribe medications. Thus, both sides will benefit.

Clearly, this regulation should be extended to all physicians, whether allopathic or osteopathic. Allowing all physician assistants to fully apply their training, regardless of what type of doctor they work under, will be a great advantage to wherever they practice. Before passing this regulation, the Osteopathic Board of Medicine should ensure that their proposal is worded identically to the regulations applying to MDs. It is necessary that both types of physicians are granted the exact same abilities, for the reasons of being fair to both parties and to avoid any confusion resulting from discrepancies between the two sets of regulations. Once the regulations are passed, it will allow PAs to realize their full potential and help to truly unify their profession.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your time in reading this letter. I hope you strongly consider passing these proposed regulations, as it would be a great step forward for the profession.

Sincerely,



Marianna Gall

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

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120