

#2644

Gelnett, Wanda B.

From: Schalles, Scott R.  
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2007 7:51 AM  
To: Gelnett, Wanda B.; Wilmarth, Fiona E.  
Subject: FW: Prescriptive Privileges for Physician Assistants

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2007 NOV 21 AM 7:34

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Comment on 2644

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Koenigsberg [mailto:spinepain@verizon.net]  
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2007 8:38 PM  
To: Schalles, Scott R.  
Cc: kentoff@gmail.com; gsolomon305@comcast.net; cdsnls@aol.com; j.tayoun@att.net  
Subject: Prescriptive Privileges for Physician Assistants

November 15, 2007

Arthur Coccodrilli  
Chairman of the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
(IRRC)  
14th Floor 333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr Coccodrilli,

After reading the statement outlining POMA's position on prescriptive privileges for physician assistants I felt the need to make my feelings known. I do not agree with the opinion of POMA regarding this issue and I know that my opinion is shared by others. I sent the following letter to Dr Garloff, president of POMA in the hopes that he would reconsider his position.

After reviewing the letter outlining the POMA position on Physician Assistants I wanted to express my opinion. I was the Chairman of Anesthesiology at Saint Agnes Medical Center from 1990 until 2004 and employed CRNA's. I am very aware of the role and limitations of physician extenders. I am currently practicing Interventional Pain Management in South Philadelphia. As far as I know I am the only D.O. in my area actively practicing this specialty. All of my competition consists of MD's. who utilize either Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners. These physician extenders do not practice independently. They practice under the direction of their supervising physician. Each practice sets up guidelines and supervises their physician extenders accordingly. My practice has become very busy but I cannot run it as efficiently as my competition because I cannot utilize a Physician Assistant. For example, I will be doing procedures today at the Wills Surgery Center located about one mile from my office. If I had a Physician's Assistant he could be seeing return visits and routine prescription renewals in my office. This cannot happen under the current regulations. I am not busy enough to hire another physician but I am having problems scheduling revisits and Rx renewals because of the time I am at the Surgery Center or at the hospital doing consults. There are many D.O.s who are practicing with M.D partners. They employ Physician Assistants under the direction of the M.D. in order to get around the law. Let's even the playing field and allow D.O.'s to practice modern medicine. We have made great advances since I entered the specialty. Please reconsider your opinion regarding this

matter.

Very Truly Yours,

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