

Ralph D. Mazzochetti, D.O.

FAMILY PRACTICE

2644

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

2017 NOV 26 AM 9:55

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Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
IRRC
14th Floor 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I have recently been made aware of proposed changes in regulations regarding prescriptive rights of Physicians Assistants in the state of Pennsylvania. I have multiple concerns regarding the need for the Proposed Changes for Physician Assistants prescriptive rights.

As a primary care practitioner and former physician's assistant, I believe that allowing physician assistants to either write for a 30 day supply of schedule 2 narcotics or accept, sign, and distribute pharmaceutical samples is really unnecessary for physician assistants. Physician assistants are extenders and are not and should not be considered independent medical practitioners.

In an era of rising abuse and narcotics diversion, I believe that this change would be counterproductive and would not guarantee a physician supervisor had recommended or authorized the prescription. This I believe would result in either harm or a lessened level of patient care.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. I can see the problem from both perspectives but firmly believe that these changes would be contrary to sound medical practice.

Sincerely,



Ralph D. Mazzochetti D.O.

CC: Charles P. Fasano, D.O., Chairman, State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Beth Sender Michlovitz, Counsel, State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

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