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Dr. Fasano-

I am writing in regards to the proposed regulations to allow Physician Assistants (PA) to have prescription power under a Doctor of Osteopathic medicine. I am currently a PA student at Duquesne University and this matter influences my future directly. When I finish school and am a practicing PA, I will be attempting to get hired by a doctor. It will be more difficult to be hired by both an M.D. and a D.O. if PAs do not have prescribing powers. The D.O. will be less likely to hire me if I don't have prescription powers and an M.D. will be less likely to hire me if they have a D.O. in their practice because then if the D.O. is ever my supervising physician, I cannot prescribe medications while working under him.

Since fewer doctors will hire me, patients will have less access to care because there are less health care practitioners to serve them. With PAs working in health care facilities, there are shorter waiting times, more appointments possible, and the physicians can focus on other more complicated cases.

D.O.'s can also be more valuable to hospital establishments that already hire PAs under M.D.'s because the D.O. can supervise PAs. As a PA, we are trained the same way regardless of if we are going to work for M.D.s or D.O.s, therefore we should be allowed to practice to the extent of our training under both. PAs prescribe under M.D.s in Pennsylvania and D.O.s in other states with few problems. Regardless, if for some reason it does not work out with the PA prescribing, the M.D. or D.O has the power as the supervising physician to limit or even eliminate the PAs prescribing power.

If for some reason the proposed regulation does get passed, there will be confusion in practices because on days that the PA is supervised by the M.D., he or she can write prescriptions. However, when the PA is supervised by the D.O., the PA cannot, even if treating the same patients. This causes confusion for all the health care professionals and the patients who regularly see the PA.

PAs writing prescriptions under the supervision of D.O.s will benefit PAs, D.O.s, practices, hospitals, and most importantly patients.

Vanessa A. Dowd PA-S

Vanessa A. Dowd 11/15/07

Cc:

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