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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Upon being a fourth year physician assistant student at Duquesne University, I am becoming more aware of the politics that surround management in medicine. One of the hot topics currently under fire is the idea that physician assistants do not have the authority to prescribe medicine under D.O. physicians. This is a very important issue, both to D.O.'s and Physician Assistant because it raises questions as to why we are able to prescribe under Medical Doctors if not Osteopathic Doctors. Regardless of who we prescribe under, our pharmacological education is the same. Physician Assistants are a very efficient addition to a practice, especially to an M.D.'s practice because they can further enhance that efficiency by prescribing medicine to fully treat their patients. PA's have been exhibiting safety and accuracy in their prescribing abilities for almost 20 years and would continue to do so under an Osteopathic physician.

An Osteopathic office will also be able to increase their efficiency and ability to increase patient visits upon hiring a Physician Assistant that can fully treat their patients with a prescription if necessary. I cannot help but feel the only reason this has yet to occur is simply politics. As the need for health care increases and the appointment waits are never ending, now is the time to widen this scope of practice for the physician assistant. An addition of a prescribing PA to an Osteopathic office will not only increase the PA scope of practice but will also enhance the Osteopathic scope of practice with the ability to treat more patients.

Thank you for your time and I hope these propositions will be considered regardless of politics and attempt to be fully understood from a medical and management stand point.

Sincerely,

Martha Gipprich PA-S

