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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2009 1:10 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Questions You Should Ask a Psychiatrist today during their "Lobby Day at the Capitol"  
**Importance:** High  
**Attachments:** RxP One-Page Summary.pdf

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**From:** Forbes McIntosh [mailto:forbes@wis-gps.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2009 10:15 AM  
**To:** Forbes McIntosh  
**Subject:** Questions You Should Ask a Psychiatrist today during their "Lobby Day at the Capitol"  
**Importance:** High

Today the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association will hold their "Lobby Day at the Capitol". One of the top issues they will be meeting with your office on is opposition to a bill that would allow certain Psychologists Mental Health Prescription Authority after obtaining additional post-doctoral university education; passage of a national exam; and, completion of a 1-year "Preceptorship (residency) under a qualified physician.

The bill has not been introduced yet, but I have attached a one-page summary for your review.

Keep in mind that the opposition being raised today by Psychiatrists is very similar to the lobby tactics used unsuccessfully in the 1990's to try and kill legislation allowing certain nurses to prescribe (Nurse Practitioners).

During the Nurse Practitioner debate Psychiatrists and other physicians predicted chaos and risk to patient care if the nurse prescriber law was allowed to pass.

Today, based on actual data and facts - we know that these "Doom & Gloom" predictions were less about facts and more of a lobby tactic.

**Psychiatrist opposition to allowing certain Psychologists prescribing authority has more to do with protecting "turf" and less to do with patient safety.**

When you meet with a Psychiatrist today - ask them for "FACTS" and "STATISTICS" to support their claim that Psychologist Prescription Authority will compromise patient safety.

**Nearly 20 years of data from the U.S. Military and years of data from the Indian Health Service, U.S. Public Health Service, State of New Mexico and the State of Louisiana provide data that shows Prescription Authority for Certain Psychologists works well and has Maintained Patient Safety.**

## QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK A PSYCHIATRIST TODAY

### Common Arguments used to Oppose Prescription Authority for Certain Psychologists Questions You Should Ask Psychiatrists Today

Theme: "Show me the data to support your claim"

- ["Psychologists cannot safely prescribe medicine"]

Show me **FACTS**: What data do you have showing prescribing psychologists creating harm?

- ["In order to prescribe medicine, you need to go to medical school"] **Do all current prescribers attend medical school? What about dentists, nurse practitioners, optometrists, physician assistants? Isn't the question about what kind of additional training is needed, rather than whether it can be safely done at all?**
- ["The distribution of psychologists and psychiatrists is the same so this won't solve the access problem"] **Could you give me the data on that? Even so, wouldn't an increase in the number of providers help with access?**
- ["Psychologists won't have the training to recognize medical conditions that may appear to be psychiatric"] **Don't they already need to do that today as a practicing Psychologist, even when they don't prescribe medicine?**
- ["Psychologists don't have the medical training necessary to diagnose and treat some of the serious side effects of these medicines such as diabetes, heart problems, etc"] **Shouldn't that be referred to the primary care doctor? Isn't the ability to recognize a possible health problem different than fully diagnosing and treating it? Are psychiatrists routinely treating diabetes and heart problems in their practices?**
- ["The military stopped its training program for prescribing psychologists"] **Yes, and six universities took over the program, which the military hires graduates from today. Why would the military continue to hire Prescribing Psychologists today, use prescribing psychologists, and send new psychologists through training programs to become prescribers, if it was not safe and effective?**

### PRESCRIPTION AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PSYCHOLOGISTS – A LITTLE SUMMARY

The Wisconsin Psychological Association is seeking legislation that would create statutory requirements and provide the Department of Regulation and Licensing the rulemaking authority to allow certain Psychologists with prescription authority. There is significant statistics to show the benefits and the positive impact this has had on patients. All branches of the U.S. Military have had Prescription Authority for Certain Psychologists since 1990. In addition, the Indian Health Service; U.S. Public Health Service and two states (New Mexico and Louisiana) allow and currently hire qualified Psychologists with Prescribing Authority

To meet the requirements of Prescription Authority, Psychologists would have to first meet rigorous educational, training and professional experience requirements, including additional university post-doctoral education; then pass a national exam; and, work under\with a physician (preferably a Psychiatrist or physician working in the area of mental health) in a "Preceptorship" for one year and 100 patients.

A one-page summary has been provided for your review.

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# Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists in Wisconsin

A recent study of county mental health clinics in Wisconsin found that on average a new patient has to wait more than nine weeks for an initial appointment with a psychiatrist. In ten counties, the wait is three months, and in several more, the delay is greater than a year! Consequently, our most needy citizens often have limited or no access to expert mental health care that requires medication. Among the most vulnerable are:

- The elderly living at home and in group and nursing homes suffering from dementia
- The chronically mentally ill who depend on county support to maintain stability
- Children and youth with problems ranging from the mild to overwhelmingly severe
- The urban and rural poor who can't afford private services
- The incarcerated at high risk for mental illness and repeat offenses
- Families in crisis due to any number of calamities

Nationally, Family Practice Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Physician's Assistants prescribe about 80% of the psychoactive medications utilized. The fact is that these professionals are not providing comprehensive mental health treatment but, rather, attempting to do the best they can in the context of a 6-minute medical consultation.

A new "subspecialty" of psychology can help to provide a new resource for our most vulnerable citizens: highly trained psychologists who are able to prescribe medications.

In 1989-92, the Department of Defense developed a Psychopharmacology Training Program for psychologists, and has utilized Prescribing Psychologists successfully ever since. Following the DoD's lead, the American Psychological Association established a university-based Psychopharmacology Training curriculum, as well as a standardized national examination, practice standards, and professional liability insurance program.

Guam (1998), New Mexico (2002) and Louisiana (2004) have all passed legislation authorizing appropriately trained psychologists to prescribe medications commonly used in the treatment of mental and emotional disorders. To date, over 100,000 prescriptions have been written by civilian and military psychologists, with *no reported adverse outcomes or malpractice claims*. Prescribing Psychologists have been welcomed by most physician colleagues, in a manner similar to the acceptance of Nurse Practitioners. Bills have been introduced in about a half-dozen other states, including Missouri, California and Illinois, with many more on the horizon.

Wisconsin's proposed Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists legislation requires:

- Three years of general practice following licensure as a doctoral-level psychologist
- The completion of an APA-approved 450 credit-hour curriculum covering the foundational biological sciences, pharmacology and psychopharmacology, etc.
- The completion of a one-year, 100 patient preceptorship under the supervision of an appropriate physician
- Following licensure, Prescribing Psychologists would maintain consultative relationship(s) with physicians and other prescribers

This training program equals or exceeds that of most currently licensed prescribers. As an added benefit, prospective Prescribing Psychologists are already situated in county agencies, nursing homes, medical clinics, hospitals, etc., and are in an excellent position to provide efficient, "integrated" care.