

March 16, 2000

Bonnie Bicocchi, RN
Chief Nursing Officer
NorthShore Regional Medical Center
100 Medical Center Drive
Slidell, LA 70461

Dear Ms. Bicocchi:

Pursuant to your request regarding RNs regulating epidural pumps for pain control with an Anesthesiologist's order to increase or decrease the infusion and nurses initialing Epidural pumps for laboring patients, your request and the information you submitted was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on January 26, 2000. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on March 15, 2000, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.4, that the Board uphold the previous nursing practice opinion 96.24, it is not within the scope of practice for a registered nurse, managing the care of the laboring patient, to administer a bolus dose of an anesthetic agent nor may the nurse adjust the rate of anesthetic infusion in accord with L.R.S. 37:930.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:PAL

npop 00.04