

June 5, 2002

Francis Weber, RN
Special Projects, Nursing Administration
LSUHSC-UMC
2390 West Congress Street
Lafayette, LA 70506

Dear Ms. Weber:

Pursuant to your request regarding a registered nurse providing care for patients receiving analgesia by epidural catheter or infusion device regarding continuous infusion of opioids, local anesthesia, steroids, alpha-agonists, or other medications including combinations was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on April 23, 2002. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on June 5, 2002, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.5, that it is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to replace empty syringes and/or infusion bag of analgesic pre-prepared solutions and to adjust the infusion rate and/or the administration of an additional dose of analgesia according to the institution's pain intensity level protocol and the Board's previous opinions regarding the epidural administration of analgesic agents and pain management.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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