

# Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Nancy A. Lowery, R.N.  
President

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September 13, 1983

Ann Nezzio Weaver, R.N., M.N.  
Director of Nurses  
St. Patrick Hospital  
524 South Ryan St.  
Lake Charles, La. 70601

Dear Ms. Weaver:

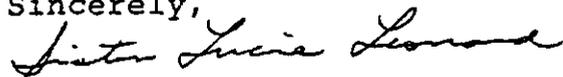
In accordance with your request, the Board of Nursing, at its September 1-2, 1983 meeting, deliberated on the legality of a registered nurse administering narcotic analgesics via the epidural and intrathecal routes. The Board's opinion on the matter is as follows:

The administration of maintenance doses of analgesics via an epidural catheter joined to an indwelling subcutaneous reservoir for the relief of intractable pain is within the realm of the practice of nursing by the registered nurse, provided that the registered nurse has the knowledge, preparation and skills supporting the ability to do so and that said educational preparation be maintained.

You will note that the opinion specifies "maintenance doses." This presupposes that initial doses leading to the determination of a maintenance dose have been administered by a physician or a C.R.N.A. Additionally, it is assumed that the medication, dose and mode of administration are ordered by a physician.

The Board appreciated the opportunity to engage in dialogue with you at the meeting.

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.  
Nursing Practice Consultant

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