

January 25, 1990

Sally J. Campbell, RN
Director of Nursing
Lakewood Hospital
P.O. Drawer 2308
Morgan City, LA 70381

Dear Ms. Campbell:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding registered nurses performing certain tasks related to the administration of a low dose epidural Marcaine drip postoperatively was presented to the Board at its meeting on January 19, 1990.

The Nursing Practice Committee had reviewed all of the information you sent and had studied the issue. At the January 19 meeting, the Committee presented its recommendations to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

.02

In reference to Agenda Item 4b, the tasks related to the epidural administration of low dose Marcaine (mix the Marcaine drip per order of anesthesiologist; set the drip up on IV pump and set rate per anesthesiologist's order; connect the IV tubing to the epidural catheter (after anesthesiologist has ascertained proper position) and start the drip; document and perform hourly dermatone levels; according to written parameters, increase/decrease IV pump rate according to level of pain sensation) are not within the legal realm of the practice of a registered nurse who is not a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

The members of the Board appreciated the presence of Melina Michel at the meeting to further clarify your situation.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN
Nursing Practice Consultant