

August 12, 1992

April Pierce, RN
Clinical Coordinator of Pain Management Service
St. Frances Cabrini Hospital
3330 Masonic Drive
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Ms. Pierce:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse injecting narcotics and/or administering a continuous infusion into the intrathecal space per catheter technique was presented to the Board at its meeting on August 7, 1992.

The Nursing Practice Committee appreciated the detailed information you sent. This information was reviewed and the Committee discussed the matter at length. At the August 7 meeting, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 4.4, it is within the realm of nursing practice of a registered nurse to inject narcotics and/or administer continuous infusion of analgesia agents intrathecally per catheter technique for chronic pain management provided said nurse has current necessary knowledge, skills and abilities documented in his/her file. The education shall be beyond licensure and be specific to intrathecal analgesia, with anesthesia personnel participating in the education program.

The Board appreciated your presence and availability to answer questions at the meeting on August 7.

If you have questions about this matter, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:sll

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