

May 27, 1996

Adriane Spencer  
Manager State Government Affairs  
Zeneca Pharmaceuticals  
3371 State Street Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70125

Dear Ms. Spencer:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding if it is within the scope of practice of registered nurses, who are skilled in the administration of drugs and in the management of critically ill patients (ICUs) administer Diprivan under a physician's direction was presented to the Nursing Practice Committee at its April 8, 1996 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee recognized that this practice is now considered appropriate throughout the country for properly educated, critical care nurses in a intensive care setting to perform. Furthermore the literature on Diprivan supports this as appropriate practice, when the nursing personnel have been properly prepared through education.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue and formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On May 16, 1996 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In response to Agenda Item 4.6:

It is within the scope of practice for a qualified critical care registered nurse to administer Diprivan (Propofol) to the intubated, mechanically ventilated patient in an intensive care setting, under the direction of a physician provided that the said registered nurse has the documented knowledge, skills, and abilities.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN  
Executive Director

BLM:pk1

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