

November 20, 1996

Jolaine Racca, RN
Pain Management Coordinator
Lafayette General Medical Center
1214 Coolidge Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70505

Dear Ms. Racca:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse administering epidural analgesia to a patient during labor was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 20, 1996.

The information you sent and related information were studied by the Nursing Practice Committee. On November 20, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In response to Agenda Item #4.3, it is not within the scope of practice for a registered nurse, managing the care of the laboring patient, to administer a bolus dose of an anesthetic agent nor may the nurse adjust the rate of anesthetic infusion in accord with L.R.S. 37:930.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:PAL

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