

May 15, 1997

Mariel Racca, RN
Director of Nursing
Southern Homecare Network, Inc.
710 W. Prien Lake Road, Suite 202
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Dear Ms. Racca:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse administering Dobutamine in the home health setting was presented to the Board at its meeting on May 15, 1997.

The information you sent and related information was studied by the Nursing practice Committee. On May 15, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 3.2, that it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to administer inotropic drugs, such as Dobutamine (Dobutrex) in the home health setting when the nurse has the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities, and the following provisos have been met:

- ◆ The patient has written advanced directives;
- ◆ The patient demonstrated an effective response to an inotropic drug action in the inpatient setting;
- ◆ The physician has obtained the patient's written consent for intermittent administration of an inotropic drug in an outpatient setting;
- ◆ The agency has written protocols for the administration of inotropic drugs that are approved by the patient's physician; and
- ◆ The agency has written policies regarding the qualifications of registered nurses allowed to administer and teach patients and/or caregivers self-administration of inotropic drugs.
- ◆ Caregivers are defined as "...Gratuitous nursing by friends or members of the family" in accord with 37:929.(1) of the Nurse Practice Act.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

cc: Cathy Buchanan
Clinical Consultant

BLM:PAL
npop 97.08