

February 21, 1996

Alicia R. Dean, RN, MSN, CEN, CCRN
Medical Center of New Orleans, Emergency Department
1532 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-2860

Dear M. Dean:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding if it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse, under direct supervision of a licensed physician and following medically approved protocols, in the Emergency Department to administer sedatives, paralytics, and hypnotics for airway management in a life threatening situation was presented to the Board at its February 1, 1996 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue at its January 8, 1996 and formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On February 1, 1996 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In response to Agenda Item 4.7:

That it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse in the emergency department to administer medication during rapid sequence induction/intubation (RSI) when:

1. Rapid sequence induction/intubation has been ordered by a physician.
2. The Staff Emergency Medical (EM) Physician is at the patient's bedside.
3. All equipment needed for resuscitation, hemodynamic support, and monitoring is available at the bedside.
4. The registered nurse has completed an appropriate education program including theory and psychomotor techniques.
5. The competency of the registered nurse is verified and documentation of competency is contained in the personnel file of the registered nurse.
6. The agency has a written policy (protocol) and a detailed procedure identifying that it is acceptable practice in the facility.

The members of the Board appreciated your contribution to the discussion of this issue.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia K. Ladner, MN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Practice

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