

May 21, 1998

Ray Banker, RN
Cardiac Services Manager
Precision Home Health Care
10473 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Dear Mr. Banker:

Your request for an opinion of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse administering to a home health patient the continuous administration of an inotropic drug as prescribed, was presented to the Board of Nursing.

The information you sent and related information was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on April 7, 1998 and the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on May 13, 1998, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.3, that the Board amend nurse practice opinion 97.04 to include the continuous administration of intravenous inotropic drug therapy in the home health setting as follows:

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 or continuous 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.

The Board expressed appreciation for the informational materials submitted with the request. If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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