

Louisiana State Board of Nursing
5207 Essen Lane, Suite 6
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Telephone: (225) 763-3570 or (225) 763 3577 Fax: (225) 763-3580
www.lsbn.state.la.us

March 21, 2006

Lisa Lauve, Chief Nurse Executive
Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital
3330 Masonic Drive
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Ms. Lauve:

Pursuant to your request as to whether it is within the scope of practice for a critical care registered nurse to administer the following classifications of drugs for rapid intubation for emergent airway management in a patient having an acute, life-threatening airway event: Neuromuscular Blocking agents, propofol and etomidate with a critical care Intensivist (MD) present performing the intubation in any setting in response to a "code or emergency, the Board rendered the following nurse practice opinion:

Board upholds the previous opinion 96.07 in regard to rapid sequence induction/intubation and further approves that it is within the scope of practice for the RN as member of a rapid response team to administer medications at the direction of the attending physician who is present and has designated the situation as an emergency (an acute, life-threatening event) with the following provisos:

1. The physician has ordered the rapid sequence induction/intubation, medication to be administered and is present at the bedside.
2. There is institutional policy and procedure developed to guide the RN in this emergency process.
3. The nurse has the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the medication administration.
4. All equipment needed for resuscitation, hemodynamic support, and monitoring is available at the bedside.
5. The competency of the registered nurse is verified and documentation of competency is contained in the file of the registered nurse. The competency is renewed and documented annually.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director
Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Npop 06.01