

September 21, 1990

Marilyn Thompson  
Director of Quality Management  
Humana Hospital  
P.O. Box 917  
Springhill, LA 71075

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding registered nurses administering Versed was presented to the Board at its meeting on September 20, 1990.

The Nursing Practice Committee had reviewed all of the information you sent and had studied the issue extensively. The Committee additionally sought input from the entire Board and from experts in conscious sedation. After due deliberation, a decision was made to address the more general question of conscious sedation rather than addressing only the administration of Versed. At the September 20, 1990 Board meeting, the Committee presented its recommendations to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to Agenda Item # 7, conscious sedation is defined as a state of mild to moderate sedation permitting cooperation and tolerance of diagnostic and therapeutic medical procedures.

The administration of intravenous conscious sedation is within the realm of practice of a registered nurse provided the following conditions are met:

1. The physician must be present.
2. The patient must be adequately monitored according to currently recognized standards of practice.
3. The R.N. must constantly observe and monitor the patient.
4. The institution must have a policy which addresses:

a. Maximum dosage which may be administered by the R.N. for the purpose of intravenous conscious sedation during medical procedures.

b. Resources which must be immediately available, including, but not limited to resuscitative equipment and resuscitative personnel.

5. There is a specific written medical order, signed by a physician, for each patient receiving the treatment.

6. The patient has a patent intravenous access.

7. The manufacturer's guidelines are followed.

8. There is documentation that the R.N. has the necessary knowledge and skills to perform the procedure.

9. The administration of medications for conscious sedation is according to currently accepted nursing standards of practice.

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

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant