

November 7, 1994

Sharon Lowery, RN, DON
Christine Feduccia, ADON
Heritage Manor of Alexandria, North
1709 Odom Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mesdames Lowery and Feduccia:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding whether or not the mixture of 1% Xylocaine with compatible medications (i.e. antibiotics) is within the realm of nursing practice in a long term setting, and whether or not this is considered compounding, was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 5, 1994.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue at its October 3 meeting and formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On November 5, 1994 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item #4.3, the use 1% Xylocaine as a diluent for intramuscular antibiotic medications is within the realm of nursing practice as long as it is recommended as a diluent by the pharmaceutical company for the specific medication and the manufacturer's specifications are followed.

The administrative rules implementing the Pharmacy Act define the term compounding as the preparation of pharmaceutical components into the final dosage form of a medication. In certain situations, termed as "stat situations", when the drug must be diluted or reconstituted immediately prior to administration, the process of administration of medications can include reconstituting, diluting, or mixing medications immediately prior to and by the same nurse who actually administers the medications. Those situations are not considered compounding.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:sll

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