

November 7, 1994

Susan Hall, RN, BSN, MBA
Program Manager, Pain Care Center
Schumpert Medical Center
One St. Mary Place
Shreveport, LA 71101

Dear Ms. Hall:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding registered nurse refilling and reprogramming implanted intrathecal drug infusion systems (Synchromed pumps) in the hospital setting and in the home setting 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 #4.6, when a patient is terminally ill and cannot tolerate transfer to the hospital, it is within the realm of practice for a registered nurse at Schumpert Medical Center Pain Management Center specifically trained in pain control (beyond basic education), under specific protocols, to refill and reprogram implanted intrathecal drug infusion systems in the home setting, provided a physician is available by telephone in the event of a complication.

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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