

November 20, 1996

Phyllis W. Simmons, R.N.
Department Head of Extended Care
St. Tammany Parish Hospital
1202 South Tyler Street
Covington, LA 70433

Dear Ms. Simmons:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse determining pain level and administering medication was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 20, 1996.

The information you sent and related information were studied by the Nursing Practice Committee. On November 20, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In response to Agenda Item #4.6, it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to assess a patient's pain level and make a decision to administer pain medication based on those parameters as set forth in the physician's order and in compliance with the agency's pain management protocol which identifies a pain intensity scale based on the registered nurse's assessment of the patient's pain level in accord withal 46:XLVII §3703.A. and §3901-3913.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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