



BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

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Ruth Ann Terry, MPH, RN
Executive Officer

January 24, 2003

William E. Barnaby
CSA Legislative Counsel
P.O. Box 160445
Sacramento, CA 95816-0445

Dear Mr. Barnaby:

This letter is in response to your query dated January 3, 2003, regarding the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). In your letter you asked whether a CRNA may administer any anesthetic other than a local anesthetic pursuant to an order by a podiatrist. As you stated in your letter the scope of registered nursing practice includes the administration of medications and therapeutic agents...ordered by, and within the scope of practice of a physician, dentist, podiatrist... [BPC 2725(b)(2)].

Scope of practice is determined by the individual practice acts of each healing arts profession and by the interpretation of that respective healing arts board or bureau. The Board of Podiatric Medicine has determined that it is within the scope of practice of a podiatrist to order both local and general anesthetics for administration by an anesthesia provider. (The limitation to local anesthetics in podiatric practice has to do with administration of anesthesia agents, not in ordering anesthesia agents for administration by an anesthesia provider.)

It is the opinion of the Board of Registered Nursing that CRNAs may administer all types of anesthesia as ordered by a podiatrist. (The CRNA is not limited to administering only local anesthetics on order from a podiatrist.) In each circumstance, the CRNA is professionally responsible for individually assessing the patient for appropriateness of the ordered anesthesia for a specific procedure, and for all other elements of anesthesia provider practice.

In response to your question regarding administration of anesthesia under standardized procedures, we will be more than happy to add it under our frequently asked questions on our web site.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Board of Registered Nursing

RuthAnn Terry, MPH, RN
Executive Officer