



**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**
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February 10, 2003

William E. Barnaby
Legislative Counsel
California Society of Anesthesiologists
P.O. Box 160445
Sacramento, CA 95816-0445

Dear Mr. Barnaby:

Thank you very much for your February 7 transmittal of the January 24 Department of Consumer Affairs response, from the Board of Registered Nursing, to your query about Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) working with Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs).

Section 2472 of the Medical Practice Act authorizes DPMs to practice medicine within the podiatric scope of the lower extremity, as defined, except as specifically excluded. Any scope of practice question is resolved by reading of the law in consultation with the Department's Legal Office. As explained in BPM's fact sheets *Information for Health Facilities* and *Information on Scope of Practice*, both exhibited on our Internet website under publications, "DPMs may not . . . administer general anesthetics [§2472 (c)]." The word *administer* is italicized in order to underscore the point also emphasized in the January 24 letter that the restriction applies to *administering*, not ordering.

Thank you very much for contacting BPM. Please let me know if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jim Rathlesberger, MPA
Executive Officer
Board of Podiatric Medicine