

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

IN RE: PETITION FOR DECLARATORY
STATEMENT OF:

BARBARA REAP, R.N.
CASE NO.: BON-DS-91-01

FILED

JUN 21 1991

FLORIDA STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the Board of Nursing pursuant to Section 120.565, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-4, Florida Administrative Code, on February 8, 1991, in Atlantic Beach, Florida and was continued to April 12, 1991, in Miami, Florida, for the purpose of considering the Petition for Declaratory Statement filed by Barbara Reap. Petitioner was not in attendance at either Board meeting. Having considered the petition and supporting documentation provided by Petitioner, the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a registered nurse in the state of Florida, employed as the Nurse Manager of the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at Boca Raton Community Hospital, Boca Raton, Florida.
2. Petitioner asks whether it is within the scope of practice for registered nurses as defined in Section 464.003(3), Florida Statutes, while working in surgical and post anesthesia units to start epidural infusions of narcotics; she asks if those nurses may start epidural infusions of local anesthetics; and she further inquires whether such registered nurses may administer bolus doses of those medications into epidural catheters.

3. Boca Raton Community Hospital presently uses intravenous infusion pumps to administer epidural analgesia for postoperative pain management in its post-anesthesia and surgical care units. However registered nurses in those units do not presently start epidural infusions of narcotics or local anesthetics and do not inject bolus doses of narcotics or local anesthetics.

4. Petitioner uses the word "start" to mean initiate the infusion after a bolus has been administered by the anesthesiologist.

5. In no instance would the registered nurse place the catheter in the patient.

6. The Petition was noticed by the Board in the January 18, 1991, issue of the Florida Administrative Weekly, Volume 17, No. 3, pages 206-207.

7. Section 464.003(3)(a), Florida Statutes, in pertinent part provides:

(3)(a) "Practice of professional nursing" means the performance of those acts requiring substantial specialized knowledge, judgement, and nursing skill based upon applied principles of psychological, biological, physical, and social sciences which shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The observation, assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, intervention, and evaluation of case; health teaching and counseling of the ill, injured, or infirm; and the promotion of wellness, maintenance of health, and prevention of illness of others.

2. The administration of medications and treatments as prescribed or authorized by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by the

laws of this state to prescribe such medications and treatments.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 120.565, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-4, Florida Administrative Code.

2. The Petition filed by the Petitioner is in substantial compliance with the provisions of Section 120.565, Florida Statutes, and Rule 28-4.001, Florida Administrative Code, and Petitioner has the requisite interest to maintain this proceeding.

3. The Board is of the opinion that it is within the scope of practice under Section 464.003(3)(a)(2), Florida Statutes, for a registered nurse to start epidural infusions with prescribed narcotic medications for post operative surgical pain management. This assumes that the narcotic is an analgesic properly prescribed by the physician and is therefore "the administration of medications and treatments." This also assumes the registered nurse has the appropriate education and training.

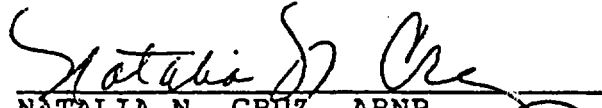
4. It is not within the scope of practice under Section 464.003(a), Florida Statutes, for the registered nurse to place the epidural catheter, to administer the bolus dose, or to administer local anesthesia. Those procedures are properly performed by the anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist prior to the patient entering the post anesthesia and surgical units.

Petitioner is notified that she may appeal this order by filing one copy of the Notice of Appeal to the Clerk of the agency, and by filing a filing fee, and one copy of the Notice of

Appeal with the District Court of Appeal within thirty (30) days of the date this order is filed.

DONE AND ORDERED this 21st day of June 1991.

BOARD OF NURSING


NATALIA N. CRUZ, ARNP
CHAIRMAN

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Final Order has been furnished by certified mail to BARBARA REAP, R.N., Nurse Manager, Boca Raton Community Hospital, 800 Meadows Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33486, this 21st day of June, 1991.

