

STATE OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF NURSING

**FILED**

JUN 15 1993

FLORIDA STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING

RE: THE PETITION FOR DECLARATORY  
STATEMENT OF:

BONNIE CANTILLON, R.N.  
CASE NO.: BON-DS-93-01

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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 19, 1993, in Tallahassee, Florida, for the purpose of considering the Petition for Declaratory Statement filed by Bonnie Cantillon. The matter was continued to the Board meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida, on April 16, 1993, for further testimony. Barbara Foster, Nurse Manager at Indian River Memorial Hospital, appeared on behalf of the facility.

Having considered the petition, the supporting documentation, and testimony from interested parties, the Board makes the following findings and conclusions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Bonnie Cantillon is a registered nurse licensed in the state of Florida. She is the Nursing Project Coordinator at Indian River Memorial Hospital (IRMH).
2. Ms. Cantillon asks whether it is within the scope of practice for registered nurses to hang pharmacy-mixed solutions for epidural infusions.

3. The facility has a written epidural management protocol approved by the Department of Anesthesiology and the appropriate nursing committee at IRMH. The protocol is pulled for each patient who is receiving Epidural Infusion on the nursing units. The nurse caring for this patient has the protocol on a clipboard in the nurseserver and is able to see that the content in the protocol is the standard for caring for the patient. The nurse signs her initials on a Standards Flowsheet indicating that all assessments and interventions have been carried out as outlined in protocol, and documentation of appropriate assessment facts and reportable conditions is completed. If the assessment factors and interventions are not appropriate for the individual patient and the physician has written different orders, the nurse has the responsibility of professionally modifying the protocol by circling her initials, which indicates a change, writing the modification on the protocol, and noting the nature of the modification and reason for modification in the Nursing Progress Record.

4. Under the hospital policies, the appropriate anesthesia provider orders the epidural, places the catheter, assures the proper lines are connected, and then initiates the infusion. The present protocol states that only the anesthesiologist may hang a new bag of solution. The facility uses one of four medications as epidural infusions: Sublimaze, Duramorph, Dilaudid, or Fentanyl.

5. Because the anesthesiologist is the only one who may hang a new bag of solution, this poses some inconvenience for

patients whose infusions may have to be discontinued on nights or weekends, for instance, when the anesthesiologist may be unavailable. The hospital proposes to modify its protocol to permit appropriately trained registered nurses on the unit to hang replacement bags whose solutions have been premixed by the pharmacy. No modification of the protocol is proposed to permit the nurse to place the catheter or initiate the infusion. Current monitoring and assessment of patients would continue after the registered nurse hangs the new bag.

6. Section 464.003(3)(a), Florida Statutes, in pertinent part, reads:

(3)(a) "Practice of professional nursing" means the performance of those acts requiring substantial specialized knowledge, judgment, 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 care; 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 the laws of this state to prescribe such medications and treatments.

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The professional nurse . . . shall be responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individual's educational preparation and experience in nursing.

7. The petition was properly noticed in the Florida Administrative Weekly.

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

3. It is the opinion of the Board of Nursing that registered professional nurses caring for patients receiving epidural infusions at Indian River Memorial Hospital may hang pharmacy-mixed solution replacement bags.

4. Petitioner may appeal this Order by filing one copy of a Notice of Appeal with the Clerk of the Board, and by filing a fee and one copy of a Notice of Appeal to the District Court of Appeal within 30 days of the date this Order is filed.

Done and ordered this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
1993.

BOARD OF NURSING

*Betty Ann Taylor*  
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BETTY TAYLOR, RN, MSN  
CHAIRMAN

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been sent by certified mail to BONNIE CANTILLON, MA Ed, RN, Nursing Project Coordinator, Indian River Memorial Hospital, 1000 36th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960, this 15th day of June, 1993.

Judith Litter