

**BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING**

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE DECLARATORY RULING ISSUED NOVEMBER 17TH, 1997, AND AMENDED JULY 27TH, 2004, PERTAINING TO THE ADMINISTRATION BY A REGISTERED NURSE OF EPIDURAL MEDICATIONS.

**SECOND AMENDED DECLARATORY RULING**

The Petition of L. Louise Drake, M.H.R., R.N., requesting an amendment to the Declaratory Ruling as to the applicability of OAC § 485: 10-11-1 (b)(8)(D), (E) and (F), by Rules promulgated by this Board to the administration by a registered nurse of epidural medications, comes on for hearing this 28th day of May, 2008, all members of the Board being present, except Louise Talley, Ph.D., R.N., and Linda Coyer, L.P.N., who are absent.

The Board is represented by Debbie McKinney, attorney at law, and Petitioner appears in person, without counsel.

After considering all information relevant to the Petition including testimony of witnesses and argument of counsel, the Board finds:

1. The Petition is properly before this Board pursuant to Section OAC § 485:1-1-5(c) of the Rules of this Board.
2. The role and scope of responsibilities of the registered nurse to administer epidural medications is set forth in the *Guidelines for the Registered Nurse in Administration, Management and Monitoring of Epidural Medications*, adopted on September 25, 1992; reviewed without revisions on November 17, 1998, and July 29, 2003; revised on November 17, 2005, with the title changed to: *Guidelines for the Registered Nurse in Administering, Managing and Monitoring*

*Patients Receiving Analgesia/Anesthesia by Catheter Techniques (Epidural, Intrathecal, Spinal, PCEA Catheters)*; revised on May 28, 2008, with the title changed to: *Registered Nurse Administering, Managing and Monitoring Non-Obstetrical Patients Receiving Analgesia/Anesthesia by Catheter Techniques (Epidural, PCEA Catheters and Intrathecal) Guidelines*; and, a copy of which is attached to this Ruling and made a part hereof.

3. The Guidelines require registered nurses who administer medications via catheter techniques (Epidural, including PCEA, and Intrathecal Catheters) to have education in, among other requirements, “pharmacology and complications related to the analgesia/anesthesia technique and medication.” (See Guidelines, Section II. B. - Education/Training). The Guidelines also provide that a registered nurse does not assume care of a patient until the following occurs:
  - a. The initial dose and initial connection of the analgesia/anesthesia catheter/infusion device is administered by a qualified anesthesia provider with authorization through clinical privileges to administer epidural and spinal anesthesia.
  - b. The qualified anesthesia provider who placed the catheter/infusion device has verified and documented correct catheter placement, and the client’s vital signs have stabilized. (See the Guidelines, Section III. B. & C. – Policies and Procedures).
4. Nursing care includes the "titration" (adjusting) of the medication and education for this practice. Titration assists with establishing and stabilizing an epidural analgesic.
5. OAC § 485:10-11-1(b)(2) and OAC § 485:10-11-1(4)(D)(E) and (F) of the Rules of this Board were adopted to protect the patient from acts and procedures performed or carried out by a licensed nurse who does not have the proper

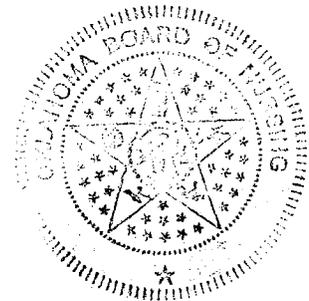
education, training and preparation necessary to perform or carry out safely such acts or procedures.

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing therefore concludes and declares: The performance of the duties of a properly trained and educated registered nurse in connection with the administration of medications via catheter techniques, in which the registered nurse changes the dosing on a continuous basis within dosing parameters established by an individual authorized by law to prescribe, does not violate the Guidelines, and is not in and of itself a violation of OAC § 485: 10-11-1(b)(2) and OAC § 485:-11-1(4)(D)(E) and (F) of the Rules of this Board.

This Second Amended Declaratory Ruling issued this 28th day of May, 2008.

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING

By:   
Melinda Laird, R.N., M.S.  
Vice-President, Presiding Officer



***Declaratory Rulings are rulings the Board issues in response to a specific question or questions as to the applicability of any rule or order of the Board at the request of a Petitioner. A Declaratory Ruling provides an explanation or clarification of the rules and shall be binding on the Board and all parties to the proceedings on the statement of facts alleged. A Declaratory Ruling or refusal to issue such a ruling shall be subject to judicial review as indicated in the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act. All Declaratory Rulings are public record and are issued in open session, following public hearings with notices posted of the open meetings, and the public may attend.***