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September 2, 1988

SEP 7 1988

Sandra Erickson, C.R.N.A., B.A.
President
California Association of Nurse Anesthetists
5 Ebbtide Court
Sacramento, CA 95831

Re: Podiatric Procedures

Dear Ms. Erickson:

This is in response to your letter of June 7, 1988, in which you raised several issues regarding the ordering of anesthesia services from certified registered nurse anesthetists by doctors of podiatric medicine. At issue were some points made in a memorandum to the Board of Podiatric Medicine from Gregory Gorges, its staff counsel, dated November 4, 1987. In the memorandum, Mr. Gorges was commenting on a recently adopted policy position of the Board's Professional Practice Committee.

At issue, essentially, is the statement that a nurse anesthetist may only provide general anesthesia to a podiatric patient in a general acute care facility.

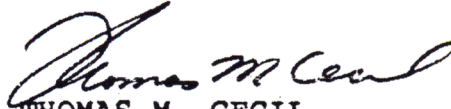
We have reviewed and discussed this matter with the executive officers for the Boards of Registered Nursing and Podiatric Medicine and their respective staff counsels. As a result, we concluded that certified registered nurse anesthetists and podiatrists each have a scope of practice which is not dependent upon the other. Neither the Nurse Anesthetists Act nor the Nursing Practice Act restrict the anesthesia services which may be provided by a nurse anesthetist nor do those acts limit those services to any particular facilities, such as general acute care facilities. In other words, nurse anesthetists may provide the full range of their services in an inpatient or outpatient setting.

I am informed by Carol Sigmann, Executive Officer for the Board of Podiatric Medicine, that the board will reconsider its policy position at its next meeting in the light of this clarification.

Sandra Erickson
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I trust this is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Cecil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being more prominent.

THOMAS M. CECIL
Deputy Director
Legal Affairs

cc: Gus Skarakis
Greg Gorges
Dan Buntjer

Catherine Puri, R.N.
Board of Registered Nursing

Carol Sigmann
Board of Podiatric Medicine

Philip Recht, Attorney at Law



Board of Medical Quality Assurance

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

1430 HOWE AVENUE, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95825

TELEPHONE: (916) 920-6347

POLICY DECISION: Utilization of Nurse Anesthetists

A podiatrist may utilize the anesthesia services of a certified registered nurse anesthetist in any appropriate setting, as provided in the Nurse Anesthetist's Act.

Method of Adoption: Board Vote
Date of Adoption: December 4, 1987
Revision Date(s): September 23, 1988