



BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS



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LOUISE WADDILL, Ph.D., R.N.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 20, 1995

Cynthia Kuykendall  
22 Preston Oaks Circle  
Odessa, Texas 79761

Dear Ms. Kuykendall:

This is in response to your question concerning the practice of CRNAs in Texas.

As in your situation, CRNAs are usually credentialed to perform specific anesthesia related functions within a facility. Through medical staff policies, they are given the authority to select and administer the necessary drugs, fluids and ventilatory techniques to accomplish the preanesthesia evaluation, the anesthesia service and the recovery of the patient. An appropriate order is necessary to authorize a CRNA to deliver anesthesia services to a given patient. Specific drug orders are not necessary since the CRNA is appropriately educated to make these selections.

In addition, CRNAs may be credentialed to write orders for outside the operating room, such as in the recovery room. Facilities often require that these orders be co-signed by the physician, but the Board has no such requirement, as long as there is a policy/protocol/practice guideline which authorizes the CRNA to perform this function.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

*Steve E. Powers / for*

Kathy Thomas, MN, RN, CPNP  
Director, Nursing Practice

KT/

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