



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 55

FORMULATED: January 2011

REVISED: March 2018, November 2013, September 2013

REVIEWED:

QUESTION: What is the role and scope of responsibilities for the registered nurse (RN) to administer fentanyl intravenously for pain management?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of the responsibilities of the RN to administer fentanyl IV for pain control when ordered by a licensed physician, dentist, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) *or other licensed provider authorized to prescribe by law*. THIS ADVISORY OPINION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEDATION MANAGEMENT. (See Advisory Opinion #25)

However, fentanyl is considered an extra potent narcotic that evokes a larger response at low concentrations (i.e. mcg vs mg) and should only be given in settings that the patient response and condition can be monitored closely.

The Board recommends that the health care facilities have an educational credentialing mechanism which includes a process for evaluation and documenting the individual RN's competency relative to the management of the patient receiving intravenous pain medications.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.