Within the Scope of Practice/Role of __X__APRN  __X__RN   ___LPN  ___CNA

ADVISORY OPINION

PCA BY PROXY

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on PCA By Proxy.

It is within the scope of practice for an appropriately trained and competent RN to administer pain medication via a patient controlled device in certain patient care scenarios, such as the ICU setting, palliative care and during patient transport. The following criteria must be met:

a) There are institutional policies and procedures to guide this practice;

b) The nurse has completed training and demonstrated continuing competency;

c) The agency/facility maintains documentation on training and competency on each nurse;

d) The care is provided under the direction of a physician, APRN or PA; and

e) The patient’s condition is assessed prior to, during, and after the procedure according to current standard of practice.

The Joint Commission, with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) and the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), makes the following recommendations to guide safe practice:

1. Develop criteria for selecting appropriate patients to receive PCA and nurse-controlled analgesia. This criteria-based selection process should consider the risk that PCA by proxy might occur. When assessing a patient for nurse-controlled analgesia, identify risk factors such as age, weight, pre-existing conditions including allergies, and current medication use that may suggest increased monitoring.

2. Carefully monitor and observe patients. Oximetry and/or capnography monitoring may be appropriate in some cases.
REFERENCES