

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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February 3, 2012

**RE: Administration of Nebulized Morphine
By Respiratory Therapists**

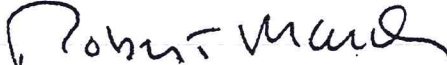
The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") reviewed your inquiry as to whether the administration of nebulized Morphine is within the scope of practice for respiratory therapists at its meeting of January 17, 2012 and asked that I convey this response.

As previously opined, the Board states that while it is within the scope of respiratory therapy, as defined by the Respiratory Therapy Practice Act and the Board's implementing rules and regulations, for a respiratory therapist to administer medications prescribed by a physician¹, in the Board's view such reference to medications does not contemplate or include anesthetic or sedative agents. More specifically stated, the Board does not believe that respiratory therapists as a class are properly qualified by education or training to properly and timely identify or respond to the numerous complications which may be associated with the administration of morphine. Therefore, the Board affirmed its opinion that the administration of nebulized morphine is not generally within the proper scope of respiratory therapy practice.

However, the Board does state that a respiratory therapist may administer nebulized morphine pursuant to the prescription and under the direction and supervision of a physician in the immediate presence of the prescribing physician. In such circumstance, the physician would be responsible for ascertaining that the individual respiratory therapist was in fact qualified to administer the medication.

Yours very truly,

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS


Robert L. Marier, M.D., FACP, MHA
Executive Director

¹ See La.Rev.State.Ann§37:3353(3); La. Admin.C.§§45.2503(a).