

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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August 2, 2016

(504) \_\_\_\_\_

RE: Procedural Sedation—  
Podiatry Surgical Procedures

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Dear :

At its most recent meeting the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") considered your inquiry as to whether it is within the scope of practice of a podiatrist to order "procedural sedation."<sup>1</sup> The Board asked that I acknowledge your inquiry and relay its advice.

The Louisiana Podiatry Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §37:611-628 (the "Act"), which the Board administers, defines "podiatry" as:

[T]hat profession of the health sciences which deals with the prevention, examination, diagnosis, medical, surgical, and adjuvant treatment of the human foot. . . . *Podiatry does not include the administration of general or spinal anesthetics by a podiatrist but does include the use of local anesthetics.*<sup>2</sup>

As to the administration of anesthesia for podiatric surgery, the Act provides:

In any podiatric surgery requiring general or spinal anesthesia, the anesthetic shall be administered by a physician anesthesiologist or by a certified registered nurse anesthetist under the direction and supervision of a physician anesthesiologist who is proximately present in the operative site. In any podiatric surgery requiring a spinal anesthetic, epidural anesthetic, or regional nerve block, the anesthetic or nerve block shall be administered by a physician anesthesiologist.<sup>3</sup>

*Procedural sedation*, or *moderate sedation* as it is also known, is a drug-induced depression of a patient's level of consciousness to a "moderate" level of sedation. Moderate sedation involves the use of the same sedatives and/or analgesics employed in monitored anesthesia care ("MAC").

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<sup>1</sup>*Email*, to La. St. Bd. Med. Exam (June 9, 2016). As we understand, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing ("BON") wishes to clarify whether RNs may administer procedural sedation based on a podiatrist's order.

<sup>2</sup>La. Rev. Stat. §37:611(3)(a), emphasis supplied.

<sup>3</sup>*Infra*.

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As is the case with MAC and general anesthesia, providers of moderate sedation must be qualified to recognize and manage instances when the level of sedation becomes deeper than initially intended and adjust the level of sedation to a moderate or lesser level. Therefore, by virtue of the above-referenced limitations and prohibitions, the order for or administration of moderate sedation does not, in the Board's view, fall within the scope of podiatry as defined by the Act.<sup>4</sup>

We trust that we have properly understood your inquiry and that the above is responsive. If not, or if we may be of assistance on this or any other matter, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

**Louisiana State Board  
of Medical Examiners**



Eric D. Torres  
*Executive Director*

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<sup>4</sup>We note that the BON has previously determined that it is not within the scope of practice of a CRNA in solo practice to provide anesthesia services for a podiatrist. Corr., La. St. Bd. of Nursing (June 5, 2002).