

May 4, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Several ENA State Councils have been involved in discussions surrounding the administration of certain medications used in procedural sedation and analgesia in the emergency department. State Boards of Nursing are being asked to consider concerns voiced by individuals representing both sides of the issue and to issue practice/policy statements. In some situations, these practice statements are prohibiting the administration of certain medications, such as propofol, which are currently being administered by emergency nurses under the direction of emergency physicians.

Safe, quality patient care is ENA's primary goal. Patient safety, as well as patient comfort, must be equally balanced during the provision of care in the ED. ENA supports the delivery of medications used for procedural sedation and analgesia by credentialed emergency nurses working under the direct supervision of an emergency physician given compliance with regulatory and professional standards of care. ENA has prepared this advocacy packet to assist state leaders in developing collaborative strategies to advocate for state board of nursing policies which support the administration of medications such as propofol during procedural sedation in the ED.

Additional packets can be obtained by contacting Kathleen Ream, ENA's Washington representative, via email at enagov@aol.com or by calling 703-241-3947. Kathi is also available to address specific questions related to the content, using the packet with boards of nursing or other agencies/organizations, or developing a strategy on this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Donna Mason, RN, MS, CEN
2007 ENA President