



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration in Nursing
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

Tel: 617-973-0900
TTY : 617-973-0988

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn>

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

August 11, 2016

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations

From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP Nursing Practice Coordinator

Re: Revisions to Advisory Ruling 1001: *Management of Patients Receiving Analgesia by Catheter Technique*

At the August 10, 2016 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling 1001: *Management of Patients Receiving Analgesia by Catheter Technique* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

The AR guides the practice of the Registered Nurse (RN) whose clinical responsibilities include the administration and management of analgesic medication by catheter technique in order to alleviate acute or chronic pain, regardless of patient age or setting, by epidural, intrathecal, intrapleural, peripheral nerve routes.

Analgesia by catheter techniques refers to all non-intravenous catheters used to provide analgesia, including but not limited to, analgesia administered by the epidural, intrathecal, interpleural, and perineural routes of administration. An external or implanted pump is used to administer the medication for analgesia.

AR 1001: *Management of Patients Receiving Analgesia by Catheter Technique* revisions clarify the language in section 7 to read:

The following activities are NOT within the scope of practice of an RN who is not a duly authorized anesthesia provider:

- Inserting the catheter or infusion device for analgesia
- Verifying catheter or infusion device position
- Advancing or repositioning the catheter or infusion device
- Administering the first dose of analgesic medication by catheter or infusion device

Please take a moment to review the entire [Advisory Ruling 1001](#).