



## **Administration of Brevital for Conscious Sedation by RNs**

In October 1999, the Board responded to an opinion request on whether it is within the scope of registered nursing practice for a registered nurse to administer Methohexital Sodium (BREVITAL) for the purpose of conscious sedation during diagnostic and/or surgical procedures.

Following review of the statutes governing nursing practice, previous advisory opinions issued by the Board and information presented regarding Methohexital Sodium (BREVITAL), it is the advisory opinion that it is within the scope of registered nursing practice for registered nurses to administer Methohexital Sodium (BREVITAL) for the purpose of conscious sedation during diagnostic and/or surgical procedures.

Registered nurses who would administer this medication for the purpose of conscious sedation should do so according to appropriately established written policies and procedures approved by both the medical and nursing departments of the facility. The administration of Methohexital Sodium (BREVITAL) by registered nurses for conscious sedation should be performed under the continuous, direct and on-site supervision of a physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner designated nurse anesthetist. Registered nurses should possess documented evidence of the necessary education and current clinical competence in the performance of this procedure including, but not limited to, current certification in advanced cardiac life support procedures. Appropriate medical equipment and resources, including personnel trained in advanced life support procedures, should be immediately available in the event the patient should experience adverse reactions or complications as a result of the administration of Methohexital Sodium (BREVITAL).

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