

ADVISORY
OPINION

OPINION: Low-Dose Ketamine
ADOPTED: June, 2014
REVISED:
REAFFIRMED: April 2016

This Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, [Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 \(2\)](#). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing.

Low-Dose Ketamine

It is the opinion of the Nebraska Board of Nursing that it is within the scope of practice for an appropriately trained Registered Nurse to administer and monitor low-dose Ketamine infusions for purposes of pain control provided:

- The Ketamine must be dosed at sub-anesthetic doses.
- Clearly defined facility policies and procedures are in place, to include the distinction between the pain management doses and an anesthetic dose.
- The patient is evaluated by, and the infusion is initiated by a Licensed Practitioner who is a specialist in anesthesia or pain management.
- The infusion is initiated in a nursing care area where the patient to nurse ratio is low. After the patient is found to be stable with no untoward effects, they may be cared for in general care areas by RN's with demonstrated competence.
- The nurse involved in the administration is familiar with and adheres to the safety recommendations and standards of practice for Ketamine administration.

The decision to administer and monitor IV low-dose Ketamine should be based upon self-assessment of competency, and following an assessment of the client and environment. A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides. Competence means the ability of the nurse to apply interpersonal, technical and decision-making skills at the level of knowledge consistent with the prevailing standard of nursing practice. Accountability also includes acknowledgment of personal limitations in knowledge and skills, and communicating the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

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