

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

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October 8, 2010

Anetha S. Craft
Director of Education
Lake Charles Memorial Hospital
1701 Oak Park Blvd.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Dear Ms. Craft,

Pursuant to your request regarding the authorized scope of practice of registered nurses to accept a verbal DNR/No Code order from the physician if no orders arrive on the nursing unit and the patient codes; the Practice Committee considered your petition at the July 21, 2010 Practice Committee meeting. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing on September 15, 2010.

That in reference to agenda item 6.3 and in accordance with R.S. 37:913 (14) which states:
§913 (14): *Registered nursing" means the practice of the scope of nursing which is appropriate to the individual's educational level, knowledge, skills, and abilities...*

After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following actions:

Motion # 1 -

That it is outside of the scope of the Practice Committee to address the legality of accepting a prior admission DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) statement to be accepted for the current admission.

Motion # 2 –

That the Practice Committee recommends to the Board to uphold the 1985 LSBN Practice Opinion Npop 85.14 on verbal ‘No Code’ orders which states:

Verbal or Telephone “No Code” Order:

A registered nurse may accept a verbal or telephone order from a physician for a “No Code” provided there is written evidence that the patient and/or the patient’s representative and physician have discussed this and are in agreement to “No Code”.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director
Louisiana State Board of Nursing

BLM/bck

Npop 10.02