

June 14, 2001

Carolyn McDonald, MS, RNC
Administrative Director of Obstetrical Services
Lakeside Hospital
4700 I-10 Service Road
Metairie, LA 70001

Dear Ms. McDonald:

Pursuant to your petition and the request of two physicians regarding a reconsideration of a previous Board opinion relating to RNs applying fundal pressure during vaginal deliveries when the physician is physically present in the delivery room, the information submitted by you and the physicians was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on April 24, 2001. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on June 13, 2001, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.1, that it is within the scope of authorized nursing practice for a registered nurse to apply fundal pressure during the second stage of labor based on medical/nursing protocols of the institution, and when the vaginal delivery is not complicated by shoulder dystocia and when the provider is physically present and directing the application of fundal pressure. The RN must have documented knowledge, skills, and abilities to the said RN's file. Furthermore, fundal pressure is never to be utilized as a method to advance the descent of the fetal head from a station above a +2.

The members of the Nurse Practice Committee expressed their appreciation for your attendance at the Committee meeting. Your response to the Board's questions facilitated their deliberation regarding the request.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

cc: Bennie Nobles, MD
Vincent Culotta, Jr., MD

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