

August 14, 2001

Jo Lynn Wallace, RN
Vice-President/Chief Nursing Officer
Rapides Regional Medical Center
211 Fourth Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Ms. Wallace:

Pursuant to your request regarding the scope of practice of registered nurses initiating treatment of newborns with Vitamin K 1 mg IM and Erythromycin ophthalmic ointment to both eyes on admission to the nursery as well as other routine care and prn labs based on clinical assessments, the information you submitted was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on July 17, 2001. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on August 12, 2001, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.2, it is not within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to initiate standing orders without contacting a physician for patient specific orders in accordance with the Law governing the practice of nursing (RS 37:913(13) and the Louisiana Medical Practice Act.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

cc: Terea McCarthy, RN
Nurse Manager
Nursery

BLM:PAL
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