

September 12, 2002

Sandy Morein, BSN, CNOR, RN
Nurse manager
Ville Platte Medical Center
Post Office Box 349
Ville Platte, LA 70586

Dear Ms. Morein:

Pursuant to your request regarding a registered nurse in the emergency room completing the *Medical Screening Exam* (MSE) if they are trained as a *Qualified Medical Personnel* (QMP) to determine if an *emergency medical condition* (EMC) does or does not exist was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on July 16, 2002. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on September 11, 2002, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.2, that it is not within the authorized scope of practice for a registered nurse to perform an appropriate medical screening exam (MSE) for the purpose of determining if an emergency medical condition (EMC) exists; the Board reaffirms its previous opinion (96.18) that it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse qualified in emergency care with documented knowledge, skills, and abilities to triage (assess the health status of an individual to determine a non-emergent status and to formulate nursing diagnosis based on health care needs to serve as the basis for indicating nursing care or for which referral to appropriate medical or community resources for the non-emergent health status) provided that triage guidelines are in place to assist the registered nurse with appropriate referrals approved by the agency's emergency medical director. Furthermore, it is within the scope of practice for an advanced practice registered to perform an appropriate medical screening exam (MSE) for the purpose of determining if an emergency medical condition (EMC) exists in accordance with the Law (R.S. 37:913.(3)(b)(i)(ii) & R.S. 37:913.(8) & (9)

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:PAL

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