

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Ellen T. Kyle, R. N.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
President

MISS MERLYN M. MAILLIAN, R.N.
Executive Director

907 Pere Marquette Building
150 Baronne Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

December 19, 1980

Carline K. Talley
Director of Nursing
Rest Haven Nursing Home, Inc.
1301 Harrison Street
Bogalusa, Louisiana 70427

Dear Ms. Talley:

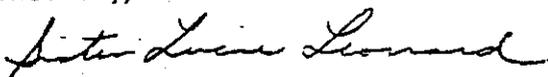
This is in response to your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing relative to the legality of a registered nurse instructing and permitting L.P.N.'s to insert Levin tubes. The Board held its scheduled meeting on December 11-12, 1980, at which meeting your request was presented to the Board.

The Board's opinion is that contingent upon the registered nurse accepting the responsibility and accountability to each patient for the quality of nursing care he or she receives, and contingent upon the registered nurse's evaluation of each patient's condition and also upon the registered nurse's evaluation of the competency of the person who will perform the task, a registered nurse may delegate the insertion of a Levin tube to a properly trained L.P.N. if the patient's response to the procedure appears predictable.

Instructing the L.P.N. would not only be legal. It would be an absolute requirement according to the opinion of the Board of Nursing and also in accordance with the previously rendered opinion of the Board of Practical Nurse Examiners. The documentation of the instruction is of utmost importance because you would need it to show evidence that you had reason to judge a particular L.P.N. competent to perform the procedure.

If I can further assist you in nursing practice matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R. N.
Nursing Practice Consultant

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