

July 5, 1987

Dr. Grace Monk, Dr. P.H., R.N.  
Chairman, LSBN Ad Hoc Committee to Differentiate  
Between the Role of the Neonatal Nurse and  
the Advanced Practitioner of Neonatal Nursing  
803 Levert Drive  
Thibodaux, LA 70301

Dear Dr. Monk:

This is to provide you written confirmation of the July 2, 1987 action of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing regarding the request that the Board differentiate between the role of the neonatal nurse and the advanced practitioner of neonatal nursing, i.e., the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner or Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist.

After hearing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Differentiate Between the Role of the Neonatal Nurse and the Advanced Practitioner of Neonatal Nursing, the Board voted to accept the statement proposed by the Committee as an official declaratory statement of the Board of Nursing. A copy of the statement is enclosed.

The Board appreciated the expertise of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee, and their willingness to assist the Board in its deliberation on the subject matter.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant

cc: Ad Hoc Committee Members

Mrs. Barbara Berry, R.N., Member of Board of Nursing  
Earl Bollinger, R.N.  
Cheryl Liljeblad, R.N.  
Jan Nugent, R.N.

Enclosure

DECLARATORY STATEMENT ON DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN

THE ROLE OF THE NEONATAL NURSE AND

THE ROLE OF THE ADVANCED PRACTITIONER OF NEONATAL NURSING

The Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist and Primary Nurse Associate have satisfactorily completed a program of studies as required by LAC 46:XLVII.3705; therefore, these registered nurses are authorized to perform advanced nursing functions within their scope of preparation.

The Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist and Primary Nurse Associate shall possess the knowledge and skills to:

1. Use selected assessment procedures, formulate plans and initiate therapeutic regimes (both invasive and assessment related) according to protocols developed jointly by nursing and medicine within the institution.
2. Initiate appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic and educational interventions, including consultations and referrals with other health care professionals.
3. Assess the benefits and risks of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions utilized in provision of neonatal health care.
4. Evaluate and document responses to interventions and modify the plan of care as indicated.
5. Interpret current research findings to determine appropriateness for application to practice and standards of care.
6. Utilize adult learning principles to teach the family, nursing staff, other health care providers and the community about the care, growth and development of the high risk neonate.