

DECLARATORY STATEMENT ON THE REGISTERED NURSE TRANSPORTING
CRITICALLY ILL NEONATES

Preamble:

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing believes that, in order to safeguard the life and health of critically ill neonates, registered nurses who transport these infants from one hospital to another must be qualified to provide essential services during the transport. Transporting a critically ill neonate is a complex activity requiring the coordinated action of a number of persons and institutions. The omission of a single action in the necessary chain of activities may be detrimental to the infant's health or survival.

Recognizing that the goal of a safe and controlled transport is the support of essential physiologic functions, the registered nurse should have a minimum of technical expertise to accomplish that goal.

Realm of Nursing Practice:

It is within the realm of practice for the registered nurse to transport neonates and other infants who have been appropriately stabilized by a physician, provided said registered nurse has appropriate technical expertise and is credentialed/privileged by the employing hospital.

Minimum Technical Expertise:

Required technical expertise for safe neonatal transport includes the following basic skills:

1. Administration of resuscitative drugs per established protocols.
2. Ability to recognize and manage basic physiologic derangements: hypothermia, hypoxemia, hypoglycemia, ventilatory failure.
3. Institution and maintenance of parenteral intravenous therapy.
4. Resuscitative measures to include: bag and mask ventilation, external cardiac massage, endotracheal intubation, and needle thoracotomy for tension pneumothorax.

The educational preparation of transport registered nurses should include didactic as well as clinical practice in the required technical skills. Such education should be ongoing to maintain technical skill, and should be documented in each transport nurse's file.

Advanced Neonatal Nursing Skills:

A registered nurse who manages the stabilization of a critically ill neonate in preparation for transfer should be qualified to practice as an advanced practitioner of neonatal nursing and should be recognized by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing as an advanced practitioner of nursing. Further, said registered nurse must be credentialed/privileged in this area by the employing hospital.

Credentialing/Privileging:

There shall be annual documentation of the maintenance of the required expertise for basic and for advanced neonatal nursing practice as described above.

Adopted by LSBN, 9/22/88

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