

November 21, 1990

Susan Clay, RN, Administrator  
The Medical Team  
3801 Canal Street, Suite 400  
New Orleans, LA 70119

Dear Ms. Clay:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a home health nurse changing the outer cannula of a tracheostomy in a home setting was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 15, 1990.

The Nursing Practice Committee had reviewed all of the information you sent and had studied the issue. The members of the Committee appreciated your availability for a conference at the meeting to further clarify your situation. At the November 15 meeting, the Committee presented its recommendations to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item # 11, it is within the realm of practice of a registered nurse in a home health setting to change the outer cannula of a tracheostomy provided it is a mature tract (in place continuously for at least ninety [90] days) and the nurse has demonstrated the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities, with documentation of same in nurse's file.

The members of the Board appreciated your input into this matter.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant