

February 21, 1996

Cynthia S. Putnam, RN, BSN
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health
Jefferson Parish Public Health Unit, Nursing Station
111 North Causeway Boulevard
Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Dear Ms. Putnam:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding if it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse, who is employed by the State Department of Health and Hospitals, working in a Public Health Unit, administer medications under the order of a Nurse Practitioner (who is also employed by the Department of Health and Hospitals and functions under approved medical and pharmacy protocols and standing physician orders) to patients in Prenatal and Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics at the Health Unit was presented to the Board at its February 1, 1996 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue at its January 8, 1996 and formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On February 1, 1996 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion

In response to Agenda Item 4.10:

That it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse, based on their individual judgment in each situation, to accept an order initiated by a licensed physician or dentist and transmitted through a nurse practitioner in accord with the collaborative practice agreement.

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patricia K. Ladner, MN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Practice

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