

May 19, 1997

Deborah C. Hotard, RN
Clinical Coordinator
H.O.M.E. Medical Services
700 St. Landry Street
Lafayette, LA 70506

Dear Ms. Hotard:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding the scope of practice of registered nurses delegating to LPNs the administration of medications through port-a-caths was presented to the Board at its meeting on May 15, 1997.

The information you sent and related information was studied by the Nursing practice Committee. On May 15, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 3.7, to uphold the Board's previous opinion relative to the delegation of the selected nursing task to the LPN relative to the administration of IV medications and fluids through the Port-a-caths.

The Board's previous opinions state that:

- 1) "...it is not within the realm of practice of a registered nurse to delegate to a licensed practical nurse the act of accessing a subcutaneously implanted port by means of a Huber needle"; and furthermore,
- 2) "...the registered nurse shall not delegate any nursing task related to maintenance or administration of intravenous medications and fluids when the patient has a port-a-cath or other such implanted venous access device requiring the use of a Huber needle."

The Committee and the Board appreciated the well-organized, informative materials that you provided and your presence at the Board meeting to respond to questions, and present additional information.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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