

December 1, 1997

Barbara B. Bivona, RN  
Director of Home Health  
Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital  
5620 Read Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70127

Dear Ms. Bivona:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding an RN inserting a nasogastric feeding tube in the home setting was presented to the Nursing Practice Committee on October 20, 1997.

The information you sent and related information was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee. On November 20, 1997 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 4.9, that it is not within the scope of practice for an RN to insert a nasogastric tube for the purpose of feeding the patient in the home setting, with or without x-ray visualization.

However, it is within the scope of practice for an RN to insert a flexible, small-bore feeding tube with or without a guide wire for the purpose of feeding the patient in any setting, with x-ray visualization as \*(when) prescribed by a physician, provided the RN has the knowledge, skills, and abilities with documentation thereof.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN  
Executive Director

BLM:PAL

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\*Edited 7/31/98