

May 21, 1998

Martha C. Stephens
Regional Director, Customer Support
Olsten Health Management
850 East River Place, Suite 400
Jackson, MS 32902

Dear Ms. Stephens:

Your request for an opinion of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing regarding the registered nurse delegating to a home health the skin care for a healed PEG tube site which requires cleansing with soap and water and/or hydrogen peroxide when the patient's physician has so prescribed, the registered nurse has assessed the PEG site, and the institution has an established policy and procedure in place was presented to the Board of Nursing.

The information you sent and related information was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on April 7, 1998 and the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on May 13, 1998, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.1, that it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to delegate to a home health aide the cleansing of the skin of a mature, healed PEG tube site with soap and water or 3% hydrogen peroxide as prescribed, provided that the registered nurse assesses the patient at least every two (2) weeks, the institution has an established policy and procedure, and, the home health aide demonstrates competency in this procedure with said competency documented to the home health aide's file.

The Board expressed appreciation for your attendance and participation in the discussion of this request at the Nursing Practice Committee meeting. If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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