

November 18, 1999

LaVonne S. Smith, RN  
LSUMC Human Development Center  
Nursing Consultant, LA Dept. of Education  
Post Office Box 94064  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Pursuant to your request on behalf of the school nurses regarding the Board's previous opinion on rectal Diastat in school settings, your request and the information you submitted was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on October 20, 1999. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on November 17, 1999, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.3, that the Board amend the previous Diastat opinions to read that it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to instill rectal Diastat in a school setting based on the registered nurse's assessment and in collaboration with the student's parents and physician to determine the necessary plan of care, inclusive of emergency equipment, to be provided by the school system, to ensure the student's safety.

Furthermore, the registered nurse may delegate to the licensed practical nurse the instillation of rectal Diastat; but may not delegate the instillation of rectal Diastat to an unlicensed school employee.

Due to the effects and the severity of the drug, either the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse whom the drug has been delegated to must be available to administer the medication as ordered by the physician.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN  
Executive Director

BLM:PAL