

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

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November 23, 1982

Maureen Maguire, R.N.
Director of Nursing
Tulane Medical Center Hospital And Clinic
1415 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Ms. Maguire:

The Board of Nursing held its scheduled meeting on November 18, 1982. At this meeting, your request for an interpretation of the word prepared in a previous Board statement regarding Neonatal Transport Nurse was presented to the Board.

The board members appreciated the opportunity to discuss this matter with you. After considerable discussion and deliberation the board members agreed on the meaning of the term prepared registered nurse in several of the Board Opinions regarding the legal definition of nursing, to wit:

Each registered nurse has the responsibility to practice nursing within that nurse's scope of competency. The rules of the Board of Nursing, specifically R.N. 1.061, (2), (h), (7), provide that "performing duties and assuming responsibilities within the scope of the definition of nursing practice when competency has not been achieved or maintained, or where competency has not been achieved or maintained in a particular speciality" is a cause for our disciplinary action against a registered nurse.

Another rule of the Board of Nursing, R.N. 3.02, (1), (j), (3), provides that assigning personnel qualified to implement the prescribed nursing care or components of that care is an activity included in the function of supervision of personnel associated with nursing functions.

As director of nursing services in your agency, you have the overall responsibility for the assignment of personnel in their area of competency. In order to fill that responsibility, you need to develop some criteria for determining the competency of personnel, which competency should be relevant to the assigned area of practice. There should be individual documented evidence of appropriate knowledge, skills and experience which attests to the competency of the person to perform the assignment.

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