

March 25, 1987 ~

Margaret B. Gehbauer, RN~
6901 West End Blvd.~
New Orleans, LA 70124~

Dear Ms. Gehbauer:~

At its regular meeting on March 19, 1987, the Board of Nursing reconsidered its opinion regarding registered nurses accepting verbal orders of a physician transmitted through another individual. After due deliberation, the Board revised its previous opinion regarding this matter by deleting the last word (individual) and inserting registered nurse in its place. The revised opinion is as follows:

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Based upon the premise that the R.N. is responsible for and accountable to the patient for the quality of nursing care received and recognizing the danger involved in accepting verbal orders of any kind, the Board declares that registered nurses may not legally carry out orders initiated by individuals other than physicians and dentists licensed in Louisiana; however, registered nurses may, based on their individual judgment of each situation, accept verbal orders transmitted from the physician or dentist through another registered nurse.

Your written communication was circulated to the members of the Board before the meeting and your verbal comments were relayed to the Board at the meeting. Additionally, Sandra Holland, R.N., addressed the Board relative to similar problems.

If I can further assist you with nursing practice matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,~

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN~
Nursing Practice Consultant~

cc: Sandra Holland