

January 28, 1988

Thomas Halbert, R.Ph.
President
O.P.T.I.O.N. Care
Home I.V. & Nutritional Service
1220 Maryland Avenue
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. Halbert:

Your request for a ruling by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing on whether Louisiana law allows registered nurses to perform selected types of intravenous therapies on patients in intermediate care nursing homes was presented to the Board at its meeting on January 22, 1988.

A copy of your correspondence was sent to the members of the Board prior to the meeting. Your presence at the meeting was very helpful in further clarifying the matter under consideration. The Board members appreciated this.

The Board members took notice of the administrative rules on the delegation of nursing functions (LAC 46:XLVII.3703.12), which provides, in part, that appropriate supervision must be available during the task implementation when there is any delegation of nursing functions. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

.03

In reference to agenda item 10c, it is not within the realm of practice of a registered nurse performing IV therapy in intermediate care facilities to delegate the monitoring of the IV to other personnel when the registered nurse is not present in the facility.

You will note that the opinion does not prohibit a registered nurse from providing the total services involved in the IV therapies which you proposed.

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: Charles Purcell
Lilly McAllister