

March 2, 1994

Joseph A. Donchess
Louisiana Nursing Home Association
7921 Picardy Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Mr. Donchess:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse in a long term facility delegating to a licensed practical nurse the monitoring of the administration of narcotic analgesics to the hospice patient was presented to the Board at its meeting on February 23, 1994.

The information you sent and related information were studied by the Nursing Practice Committee. On February 23, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In response to Agenda Item #4.1, it is the opinion of Louisiana State Board of Nursing that an RN in a long term facility (LCF) that provides hospice services may delegate to LPN the monitoring of the administration of narcotic analgesics to the hospice patient requiring continuous analgesia for terminal pain relief provided the LCF has written established protocol mutually acceptable to LCF and hospice and provided the following criteria are met: 1) a pump programmed to deliver continuous analgesia is used; 2) the IV is initiated by an RN and pump is loaded by the RN; 3) LPN would not be allowed to bolus the medication or reprogram the pump; 4) patient is to be assessed by an RN daily; 5) said LPN must have completed an IV therapy course of at least 40 hours including administration of Schedule II narcotic analgesics; 6) task may not be delegated until the patient is determined to be in a stable nursing situation; and (7) there is a protocol mutually acceptable to the Hospice provider and the nursing facility.

The Nursing Practice Committee and the entire Board appreciated your presence and contributions, as well as those of the other interested persons, at the meetings.

If you have questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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