

# Louisiana State Board of Nursing



# THE EXAMINER



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 11, 2003

THE NCLEX-RN® Examination Passing Standard Revised for Public Safety

**Chicago, IL.** The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN) voted at its December 2-4, 2003 meeting to raise the passing standard for the NCLEX-RN® examination, the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The new passing standard is -0.2800 logits on the NCLEX-RN logistic scale, 0.070 logits higher than the previous standard of -0.3500. The new passing standard will take effect on April 1, 2004, in conjunction with the new 2004 NCLEX-RN Test Plan.

NCSBN increased the passing standard in response to changes in U.S. health care delivery and nursing practice that have resulted in the increased acuity of clients seen by entry-level RNs. After considering all available information, the Board of Directors determined that safe and effective entry-level RN practice requires a greater level of knowledge, skills, and abilities than was required in 1998, when NCSBN established the current standard.

The NCSBN Board of Directors used multiple sources of information to guide its evaluation and discussion regarding the change in passing standard. As part of this process, NCSBN convened an expert panel of nine nurses to perform a criterion-referenced standard setting procedure. The panel's findings supported the creation of a higher passing standard. NCSBN also considered the results of a national survey of nursing professionals including nursing educators, directors of nursing in acute care settings, and administrators of long-term care facilities.

In accordance with a motion adopted by the 1989 Delegate Assembly of the NCSBN, the NCSBN Board of Directors evaluates the passing standard for the NCLEX-RN examination every three years to protect the public by ensuring minimal competence for entry-level RNs. NCSBN coordinates the passing standard analysis with the three-year cycle of test plan content evaluation, conducted using a practice analysis of entry-level RNs. This three-year cycle was developed to keep the test content and passing standard current with entry-level practice. The 2004 NCLEX-RN Test Plan is available now free of charge electronically for download or in hard copy for purchase via the NCSBN web site.

General information regarding NCSBN and the NCLEX examination program is at: <http://www.ncsbn.org/>.

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**\* \* \* A L E R T \* \* \***

Please be advised that the Louisiana Office of Public Health is establishing a database of Registered Nurses who are willing to volunteer in the event of a natural or man made disaster. If you are willing and interested in participating in emergency response activities (responding to disasters), please submit your name, contact address, phone numbers, and email address to the Louisiana Office of Public Health by email [dbrown@dhh.stat.la.us](mailto:dbrown@dhh.stat.la.us), or fax 504-568-5142, or mail to Louisiana Office of Public Health, Department of Health and Hospitals, Nursing Service, 325 Loyola Ave, Room 315, New Orleans, LA 70112.

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**Immunizations**

In accordance with the Law Governing the Practice of Nursing and Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners position statement, RNs may administer immunizations in a licensed health care facility pursuant to a standing order of a physician when the said physician is available for consultation regarding contraindications and adverse reactions and a single physician assumes responsibility for the safe conduct of the immunization program.

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**MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2003 BOARD MEETING**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:**

**Accepted** the Vice-President's Report and First Quarter Financial Statement Report for July 1 – September 30, 2003.

Accepted the 2004-2005 proposed meeting dates of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.

**Adopted** the 2004-2005 proposed budget.

**CREDENTIALING ISSUES**

**Approved** the proposed controlled substances guidelines.

**EDUCATION ISSUES**

**Accepted** the letter of intent for L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College to establish an associate degree program in nursing and request that the program provide the required documents as the planning continues and submit an interim report in six months to the Board. Further that L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College follow the steps for establishing a new program as stated in LAC 46:XLVII.3533.

**Accepted** the letter of intent for Delta Community College to establish an associate degree program in nursing and request that the program provide the required documents as the planning continues and submit an interim report in six months to the Board. Further that Delta Community College follow the steps for establishing a new program as stated in LAC 46:XLVII.3533.

**Approved** the request of Our Lady of the Lake College for recognition by the Board of their RN refresher course.

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**Accepted** the letter of intent for Sowela Technical Community College to establish an associate degree program in nursing and request that the program provide a full proposal with the required documents as the planning continues. Further that Sowela Technical Community College follow the steps for establishing a new program as stated in LAC 46:XLVII.3533.

**Approved** the request for faculty exceptions (LAC 46: XLVII.3515.B.7) of the following:

**Sandra Martin Lovett, Patricia Lee Valley Sorrells, and Carrie Mae Cooper Tademy**, LSU at Alexandria; **Gerlyn Alisha Hall Simon**, McNeese State University; **Tara Rachelle Guidry Knott, Deedra Kaye Hammond Harrington**, UL at Lafayette; **Catherine Olga Smith Campbell** (2<sup>nd</sup> Exception), **Rayne Williamson Lowder, Danita Sims Potter** (3<sup>rd</sup> Exception), UL at Monroe

**Approved** the request of University of Louisiana Lafayette to recreate their accelerated option tract for second degree students effective Fall 2004.

**COMPLIANCE ISSUES:**

**Approved** the proposed policy on reinstatement of licensure when individual has practiced without a license.

**Approved** the proposed policy for arrest/conviction record guidelines for applicants.

**NURSE PRACTICE ISSUES:**

After due deliberation of the following nursing practice opinions the Board made the following actions:

**Reaffirmed** the Board's previous opinion regarding microdermabrasion Nurse Practice Opinion 01.12.

**Adopted** that it is **not** within the scope of practice for an RN to delegate to an LPN the reinsertion of a gastrostomy tube into an old stoma.

**Adopted** that it is within the scope of practice for the RN to delegate to the LPN the accessing and terminating of double-lumen permacaths and central line catheters used for hemodialysis in the outpatient /chronic setting. Furthermore, the Declaratory Statement will be expanded to provide for education/training specifications of the LPN to access/terminate these devices and the role of the RN assessing the patient prior to delegation; and, furthermore staff will incorporate in the Declaratory Statement the revision date. (See attached.) Also, **accepted** the recommendation that the Board provide a definition that will clarify the terms that are used in the Declaratory Statement as it relates to "supervised," "immediately available," and "immediate supervision."

**Adopted** that it is within the scope of practice for the RN, under the direction of a licensed physician or other authorized prescriber to perform the medical evaluation to fit a respirator device according to OSHA requirements; furthermore, it is within the scope of practice of APRNs to perform this evaluation.

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**OTHER:**

That the Board **endorses** participation in the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses by providing data in accordance with the review of state laws by the executive director and legal counsel.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Deborah Ford was elected as President for 2004.  
Patricia Bourgeois was elected as Vice President for 2004.  
Frankie Rosenthal was elected as Alternate Officer for 2004.

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**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS  
DECEMBER 2003**

RNP = Recovering Nurse Program

**Arcement, Shim Cherie** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with Board Order.

**Atkison, Alice Marie Williams** (Consent Order)

Suspended license, with stay of said suspension, and probated for 2 years with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Inappropriate, Incomplete, or Improper Documentation, and Failure to Utilize Appropriate Judgment.

**Bamburg, Sandra Rodgers**

Suspension of license continues for an additional two years with stipulations and fine prior to requesting reinstatement.

Charges: Working Without a License.

**Batiste, Bobby**

Approval granted to take NCLEX-RN, to be issued work permit, and licensure with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Prior Criminal Action; Failure to Disclose

**Bearly, Sharron Beth** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license and reinstatement with probation for minimum 6 months with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Practicing without a license.

**Bergeron, Sherry Elizabeth Carbo** (Consent Order)

Suspended license with stay and probated for 2 years with stipulations and fine.

Charge: Failure to Maintain Minimum Standards, False Documentation and Medication Errors.

**Bever, Kimberly Diane Slack** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Prior Arrest: Failure to Disclose

**Bigner, Stephanie Burgess** (Consent Order)

Reinstated license with reprimand.

Charge: Failure to comply with Continuing Education Audit.

**Blaney, Charon Derral Hamilton** (Consent Order)

Suspension of license stayed and eligible for reinstatement after completion of reinstatement process with probation minimum 3 years with stipulations and fine.

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**Bourgeois, Roxanne** (Ratified) (Consent Order) (Student)

11/10/03 Summarily suspended approval to continue in clinical nursing courses.

11/20/03 Suspension of approval to enter, advance or continued in clinical nursing courses will continue until stipulations met; following, if approved to enter/progress in clinicals, suspension stayed with probation min 4 years with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Drug Related: Positive Drug Screen.

**Burns, Ricky Rena** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with Board order.

**Carter, Tangela Dionne Tieucl** (Settlement Order)

Suspension of license stayed and reinstated with probation for a minimum of 3 years with stipulations and fine.

**Chan, Richard Joseph** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to board action in another jurisdiction.

**Charlet, Kevin Chad** (Settlement Order)

Suspended RN and APRN licenses with stay of suspension and probated for minimum 12 months with fine and stipulations.

Charges: Arrests, Alcohol Related.

**Claverie, Marchelle Claudette Fulgham** (Ratified)

Suspended license minimum of 6 months due to non-compliance of Board Order.

**Clements, Anna Louise** (Consent Order)

Reinstated license with probation and RNP minimum 5 years with stipulations and fine.

**Coody, Elizabeth Mattingly Letard** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with RNP.

**Cook, Veronica Lynn** (Consent Order) (Applicant)

Approval granted to take NCLEX and to receive a probated license reprimand, stipulations and fine.

Charges: Prior Arrest: Failure to Disclose

**Costanza, Suzannie Catherine Ayuso** (Consent Order)

Suspended license with stay and probated for 12 months with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Criminal Arrests: Misdemeanors

**Counts, Joanna Lynn Estes** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with Board Order.

**Courville, Susan Angelette Duplichan** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charge: Failure to follow legal standards of nursing practice; Has violated a rule adopted by the Board, specifically related to verification of licensure.

**Crates, Wendy Lynn Tracy** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Inappropriate Delegation

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**Davidson, Susan Mae Niehaus** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license and eligible for reinstatement with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Disciplinary Action in Another Jurisdiction

**Dial, Keriell Marie** (Consent Order) (Student)  
Approval granted to progress to next clinical nursing course with probation, stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Prior Criminal Arrest

**Dieter, Robert Frederick** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license and eligible for reinstatement with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Previous Criminal Arrest

**Elsenrath, Sondra Faye Stephens** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Failure to Disclose Previous Criminal Arrest

**Ester, Lashunda Katrice Lindsay** (Consent Order) (Applicant)  
Reprimanded license with fine.  
Charges: Failure to Disclose a Criminal Arrest and Falsification of Record.

**Fonseca, Jennifer Demare**  
Delayed entry into clinical nursing courses for 1 year with RNP and fine.  
Charges: Prior Criminal Conviction

**Foreman, Jonathan Robert** (Ratified) (Consent Order)  
10/09/03 License summarily suspended.  
11/13/03 Suspended license for minimum 18 months with stipulations prior to requesting reinstatement; if reinstated, minimum of 3 year probation and limited license to never provide direct nursing care to female patients, stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Exceeding professional boundaries: Sexual misconduct.

**Gilmore, Shelby Ann** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Failure to Disclose Previous Criminal Arrest.

**Goldman, Martha Ellen Ardis** (Consent Order) (Applicant)  
Approval granted for licensure by endorsement with reprimand, stipulations and fine.  
Charge: Criminal Arrests: Failure to Disclose

**Goulart, Paul Ernest** (Ratified)  
Suspended license due to non-compliance with RNP.

**Harper, Shelby Leigh**  
Suspension of license continues for a minimum of 6 months with RNP and stipulations.  
Charges: Drug Related: Positive Drug Screen; Action in another Jurisdiction and Narcotic Discrepancies

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**Harris, Brent Allen** (Consent Order)  
Eligible for reinstatement with probation and RNP minimum 5 years with stipulations and fine.

**Hebert, Robert Louis** (Consent Order)  
Suspended license with stay and probated for 12 months with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Prior Criminal Arrest

**Herrera, Laura Jean Sechrest** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Practicing Beyond the Scope of Nursing and False Documentation.

**Himes, Jerrilynn Latrice Ferrier** (Ratified)  
Suspended license due to non-compliance with RNP.

**Hermosura, Tisha** (Consent Order)  
Reinstated license with reprimand, stipulations and fine.  
Charge: Medical Malpractice: Failure to Disclose

**Honaker, Jamie** (Ratified) (Consent Order) (Student)  
10/27/03 Delayed approval to enter clinical nursing courses with stipulations.  
11/7/03 Delayed approval to enter, advance or continue in clinical nursing courses with stipulations; if approval is granted, will be probated with stipulations and fine. Charges: Prior Criminal Action: Drug Related.

**Johnson, Otis James** (Consent Order)  
Suspended license with stay and probated 4 years with stipulations and fine.  
Charge: Positive Urine Drug Screen

**Keaton, Christopher Charles** (Consent Order)  
Reinstated license with probation minimum 5 years with stipulations, RNP and fine.

**Kennedy, Suzanne** (Consent Order)  
Suspended license for minimum of 6 months with stipulations prior to requesting reinstatement; if reinstated, minimum of 3 years probation with stipulations.  
Charges: Drug diversion-self and criminal arrest.

**Kennon, Vicki Kaye** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Prior Criminal Arrests: Failure to Disclose.

**Lang-Mims, Georgette Anita**  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fines.  
Charges: Failure to supervise and assess.

**LeJeune, David Troy** (Consent Order)  
Reinstated license with probation and RNP minimum 5 years with stipulations and fine.

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**Lloyd, Lacey Stevens** (Consent Order)

Suspended license with stay and probated for a minimum of 18 months with stipulations and fine.

Charge: Drug Related: Refused Drug Test

**Macynski, David Frank** (Consent Order)

Suspended license with stipulations to complete prior to requesting reinstatement; if reinstated, probation minimum 2 years, stipulations and fine.

Charges: Failure to Practice Nursing in Accordance with the Legal Standards of Nursing Practice.

**Mason, Sandra Lee Pitakos** (Consent Order) (Applicant)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Failure to Disclose Previous Criminal Arrest.

**Masoner, Melissa Danette Hyde** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with Board Order.

**McCleskey, Anna Jeannette Tucker** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Practicing outside of the Scope of Nursing

**McCool, Nancy Lynn Boyd** (Consent Order)

Reinstated license with probation and RNP minimum 5 years with stipulations and fine.

**Montaldo, Beth Frances** (Ratified)

11/14/03 License summarily suspended

12/03/03 License continued to be suspended for minimum of 6 months with application for reinstatement contingent upon meeting stipulations.

Charges: Unprofessional Conduct: Failure to Maintain Minimal Standards, Unsafe Practice, Failure to Assess, Other: Reported administration of ordered meds without documentation; Misconduct: False Documentation; Refused Drug Screen; Other: Drug Related.

**Montana, Holly Noel Krauss** (Consent Order)

Voluntarily surrender of license minimum 2 years.

**Morgan, Lana Dianne Surry** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with Board order.

**Murdock, Connie Allen** (Consent Order)

Suspended license with stay and probated a minimum of 2 years with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Falsification of Records; Potential Inability to Practice Safely Due to Physical Impairment.

**Nader, Susan Michelle** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to action in another jurisdiction.

**Nation-Wood, Robin Adrienne** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Failure to Practice Nursing in Accordance with the Legal Standards of Nursing Practice.

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**Pace, Diane Marie Camp** (Consent Order)

Suspended license with stay and probated for 2 years with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Drug Related: Other

**Parks, Ken Mason** (Ratified)

11/17/03 License summarily suspended.

12/03/03 License remains suspended with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Narcotic Discrepancies; Positive Drug Screen; Failure to Cooperate with the Board.

**Paulette, Pamela Marie Pryor**

Suspended with stipulations and fine prior to requesting reinstatement.

Charges: Criminal Arrest; Failure to Cooperate with Board.

**Peltier, Meredith Ann McCulla** (Consent Order)

Voluntarily surrender of license minimum 2 years.

**Phillips, William Dale** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with Board order.

**Philyaw, Tina Louise Early** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Prior Arrests: Failure to Disclose.

**Pilcher, Jeffery Joseph** (Consent Order) (Student)

Approval granted to enter in clinical nursing courses upon completion of stipulations; after meeting stipulations, will be probated with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Prior Criminal Action.

**Polander, Timothy Brian**

Denied approval to take NCLEX-RN or to be licensed with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Failure to Disclose

**Powell, Lori Michelle Warren** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Failure to Utilize Appropriated Judgment.

**Pratt, Margaret Hill** (Consent Order)

Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.

Charges: Failure to Practice Nursing in accordance with Legal Standards of Nursing Practice; Failure to adequately assess, intervene, and document patient incident.

**Pulkowski, Jessica Ann** (Ratified) (Consent Order) (Student)

12/01/03 Delayed approval to enter, advance or continue in clinical nursing courses until stipulations met.

Charges: Prior Criminal Arrests

**Quinn, Brandi Lynne** (Ratified)

Suspended license due to non-compliance with Board Order.

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**Register, Julia Kline Shirk** (Ratified) (Applicant)  
Delayed licensure by endorsement due to court ordered probation.

**Richardson, Deborah Mae Gwin** (Consent Order)  
Suspended license with stipulations prior to requesting reinstatement.  
Charges: Drug Related; Presenting Illegal Prescriptions.

**Rinicker, Reba Gayle Griffin** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Criminal Arrest.

**Rossignol, Elizabeth Ann Hayward** (Consent Order) (Student)  
Delayed approval to enter, advance or continue in clinical nursing courses until stipulations are met.  
Charges: Criminal Arrests: Drug Related

**Schleicher, Connie Ann Larue Zierlein** (Consent Order)  
Eligible for reinstatement of RN license and to apply for initial APRN license with stipulations and fine.

**Sheppard, Angel Lynette** (Consent Order) (Student)  
Approval granted to progress to next clinical nursing courses with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Previous Criminal Arrests

**Singleton, Ronald Shelby** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Failure to Disclose Previous Criminal Arrest.

**Staton, Tamie Marie** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Failure to Follow Legal Standards of Nursing Practice; Medication error.

**Stickell, Patricia Lynn Lacour** (Consent Order)  
Suspended license with stay and probated for a minimum of 3 years with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Drug Related: Positive drug screen.

**Stone, Judy Marie Parisien**  
Licensure by endorsement granted with letter of reprimanded and fine.  
Charges: Failure to Disclose

**Stroud, Wendy Lynn Hill** (Ratified) (Student)  
Delayed approval to enter clinical courses until the court ordered probation is completed.

**Stuebben, Suzette Marie** (Consent Order) (Student)  
Delayed approval to enter, advance or continue in clinical nursing courses with stipulations; if approval is granted, will be probated with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Prior Criminal Arrest; Chemical Dependency

**Tanner, Rachel Elizabeth** (Ratified) (Consent Order)  
10/08/03 License summarily suspended.  
10/29/03 License summarily suspended with application for reinstatement contingent on meeting stipulations.  
Charges: Narcotics Discrepancies; Drug Abuse

**Turner, Edward** (Consent Order)  
Reprimanded license with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Failure to Disclose Previous Criminal Action.

**Viehe, Devon Ried** (Consent Order)  
Suspended license with stay and probated for a minimum of 3 years with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Drug Related: Alcohol Abuse.

**Wimprine (Jr.), Ronald Davis** (Consent Order)  
Eligible for reinstatement, suspended license with stay and probation for minimum of three (3) years with stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Misconduct: Physical Abuse, Breach of Confidentiality and Unprofessional Conduct: Failure to Maintain Minimal Standards, Unsafe Practice.

**Wood, David Mark** (Ratified) (Student)  
Delayed approval to enter clinical courses with stipulations.

**Youngblood, Louis Peter** (Consent Order) (Applicant)  
Reprimanded license with fine.  
Charges: Failure to disclose criminal arrest and falsification of record.

**Zoppi, Jennifer Raye Waites** (Consent Order) (Student)  
Delayed approval to enter, advance or continue in clinical nursing courses until stipulations are met; following, approval to continue in clinical nursing courses with probation, stipulations and fine.  
Charges: Prior Arrests

## **DECLARATORY STATEMENT ON THE ROLE AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE IN DIALYSIS NURSING IN RENAL DIALYSIS CENTERS AND FACILITIES**

### **Preamble**

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing believes that, in order to be responsive to the needs and safeguard the life and health of dialysis patients, registered nurses must be accountable and responsible for the assessment, planning, intervention, teaching, supervision, and evaluation of care to ensure that the patient will receive a safe and effective hemodialysis treatment according to the prescribed treatment plan and in accordance with LAC 46: XLVII. 3901-3913. Risks are inherent in the hemodialysis process as identified by the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) LAC 46:1.2438, 2440, 2442, and 2444 and when the parameters for confirming adequate dialysis are compromised (ERSD Network 13, 1996).

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## Authority

Pursuant to L.R.S. 49:963 and LAC 46:XLVII.3321, the Board of Nursing is authorized to issue declaratory statements in response to requests for clarification of the effect of rules and regulations or of L.R.S. 37:911 et seq. as re-enacted and amended, 1995.  
Process

On February 2, 1996 the Task Force on the Role and Scope of Practice in Dialysis Nursing convened to review letters of concern regarding current practices in hemodialysis, letters of request for an opinion, previous Board opinions relative to dialysis nursing and to develop a declaratory statement regarding the delegation of hemodialysis functions to LPNs and dialysis technicians particularly regarding cannulation, initiating of dialysis, and the administration of medications in a dialysis unit or clinic and in the acute care setting, that is responsive to the needs in Louisiana.

After due deliberation, the Task Force members identified the following salient points relative to hemodialysis nursing:

- ◆ Areas of concern addressed in writing to the Board are relative to the accountability of a registered nurse in the acute care setting who is not competent in dialysis functions, the lack of technician preparation, the role of the LPN, and the staffing ratios of registered nurses to patients and technicians in a renal dialysis facility.
- ◆ Other areas of concern addressed by the Task Force members are relative to the quality of care issues, mortality rates, facility compliance with HFCA standards, and delegation of functions to technicians as it relates to the national adequacy of hemodialysis standard:  $Kt/VD = 1.2$  ( $URR > 65\%$ ).
- ◆ Mortality statistics for ERSO dialysis patients in 1994 were 21% for National and 19% in Louisiana; however, 1995 statistics show ERSO Network 13, which includes Louisiana, as having the lowest degree of dialysis adequacy, less than a 40% mean  $URR > 0.65$ .
- ◆ Since 1974, technicians and LPNs have been performing the technical skills of accessing a graft (cannulating and initiating dialysis) in renal dialysis facilities.
- ◆ There are inconsistencies regarding the training and in some cases, practice of LPNs and dialysis technicians in renal dialysis facilities.
- ◆ In Louisiana there are no set guidelines for training dialysis technicians or for verifying competency, monitoring, and reevaluation.
- ◆ There are varying levels of delegated functions to LPNs and technicians:
  - in some facilities LPNs and technicians are only administering Heparin and Saline;
  - in other situations the LPNs and technicians are administering Epopren and Calcijex (one facility limits medication

administration to LPNs injecting the drugs into the machine versus the patient);

- in some areas technicians are accessing grafts only, and in other areas they are accessing permacaths and central line catheters.
- ◆ There are two distinct situations that need to be addressed:
    - acute care settings with LPNs initiating and performing dialysis;
    - chronic care settings (renal dialysis facility), which have registered nurses present with a consistent ration of 4:1, but with inconsistencies in the type of personnel and delegated functions.
  - ◆ There is a high turnover rate for registered nurses in the chronic setting. In 38 reporting facilities the average years of service for the registered nurse is 2.7 years compared with 4.5 years of service for technicians.

The Task Force members identified the following areas of agreement:

- ◆ Delegation in the acute setting must be done by a registered nurse trained in dialysis. In order to safely delegate to an LPN, appropriate supervision must be available, in-house, throughout the dialysis procedure in accord with LAC 46: XLVII. §3703.A.10. and 12.
- ◆ There is a shortage of registered nurses competent in dialysis nursing.
- ◆ There are no set educational standards regulating dialysis training in Louisiana facilities.
- ◆ Pertinent data relative to patient safety ( $Kt/VD = 1.2$  ( $URR > 65\%$ ), common practices, education, and staffing ratios should be considered in the Board's response.
- ◆ It is routine practice for the LPNs and technicians to administer Saline and Heparin into the dialysis machine.

## Board's Response

After due deliberation and in accordance with L.R.S. 37:911 et seq. as re-enacted and amended, 1995 the Board took the following actions on November 20, 1996 in order to safeguard the life and health of hemodialysis patients.

The Board believes that every patient requiring hemodialysis has the right to professional nursing care. The registered nurse is responsible for the nature and quality of all nursing care a patient receives in accordance with LAC 46:XLVII. 3701-3703 and 39011-3913 regardless of the dialysis setting. The nursing care of dialysis patients shall be supervised by a registered nurse who has training, experience, and documented current competence in the nursing care of patients with renal and end-stage disease and in hemodialysis techniques.

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The Board continues to recognize that upon assessment, a registered nurse may delegate to an LPN or dialysis technician the functions of administering Saline and Heparin into a dialysis machine in a renal dialysis facility; the registered nurse may delegate to an LPN and dialysis technician the accessing of a graft by cannulating and initiating dialysis where the registered nurse is readily available for immediate supervision and providing that the said LPN and dialysis technician has the necessary knowledge, skill, and abilities as documented by:

- 1) Dialysis training and orientation reflecting the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) standards of clinical practice and in compliance with HFCA regulations, including but not limited to:
  - A. Anatomy and physiology of the renal system.
  - B. Principles of water treatment.
  - C. Dialyzer reprocessing.
  - D. Basics of Nutrition in renal failure.
  - E. Understanding of ethical issues impacting on nephrology practice.
  - F. Communication and interpersonal skills.
  - G. Standard Precautions, as recommended by the Center For Disease Control.
  - H. Concepts and principles of hemodialysis.
  - I. Arteriovenous puncture for dialysis access techniques.
  - J. Use of Heparin in dialysis procedures.
  - K. Use of isotonic saline in dialysis.
  - L. Maintenance of the delivery system: integrity of extracorporeal circuit, pressure monitor readings, anticoagulant delivery, blood flow rate, alarm limits and/or conditions.
  - M. Observation and reports of complications to the registered nurse.
  - N. Post-treatment access care guidelines.
  - O. Disposal of supplies in compliance with Standard Precautions.
  - P. Agency policy in regarding terminal cleaning of equipment and treatment area.
- 2) Training with an assigned preceptor deemed competent by a registered nurse.
- 3) Final initial verification of cannulating skills by a registered nurse and with the registered nurse validating skills biannually.

Any nurse caring for a patient with contract dialysis must have a skilled, competent, registered nurse to assess the patient and either perform the dialysis or delegate the function to a competent LPN provided the said registered nurse is in-house during the initiation and performance of dialysis and is readily available in accord with LAC 46:XLVII. §3703.A.10.c.

Accessing, initiating, and terminating *dialysis treatment* by double-lumen permacaths and central line catheters in in-patient acute care settings are non-delegable functions. The administration of Epogen and Calcijex are non-delegable functions in accord with LAC 46:XLVII. §3703. A.12 . Furthermore, in dialysis settings the registered nurse must adhere to the rules and regulations on the delegation of nursing function relative to the administration of

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intravenous medications and fluids as set forth in LAC 46:XLVII. 4101-4111.

## **OUT-PATIENT, CHRONIC DIALYSIS**

*In out-patient, chronic dialysis centers, the registered nurse may delegate to the LPN accessing, initiating, and terminating dialysis treatment by double-lumen permcaths and central line catheters provided the registered nurse has assessed the patient and monitors the patient during the dialysis treatment and evaluates the outcomes of the treatment, and, the said LPN has documented to her file the training and orientation stated above and the following training listed below specific to double-lumen permcaths and central line catheters:*

- 1) *Central Venous Catheters:*
  - A. *Types of central venous catheters*
  - B. *Initiating Dialysis with a Catheter*
    1. *Inspect for infection*
    2. *Disinfect catheter ports*
    3. *Verify catheter patency*
    4. *Administer the heparin prime (loading dose)*
    5. *Secure the catheter connectors*
    6. *Draw predialysis blood samples*
    7. *Initiate dialysis*
    8. *Discontinue dialysis*
    9. *Teach patient catheter care*
  - C. *Dialysis-Related Complications of Catheters*
    1. *Catheter dislodgement or removal*
    2. *Air embolism*
    3. *Infiltration/hematoma*
    4. *Bleeding during hemodialysis*
    5. *Recirculation*
  - D. *Long-Term Complications of Catheters*
    1. *Central venous stenosis*
    - 2) *Clinical Training with an assigned registered nurse*
    - 3) *Verification of accessing, initiating and terminating dialysis treatment skills by a registered nurse and with the registered nurse validating skills biannually.*

*The Board of Nursing recognizes that all forms of vascular access involve some compromise and have complications. Although accessing central lines devices is a technical skill that maybe delegated to another trained licensed nursing personnel; the registered nurse must retain the accountability for managing and supervising the care of the dialysis patient. The registered nurse must track the outcomes of dialysis and if the data shows that the patients are not receiving adequate dialysis treatments, the registered nurse may no longer delegate the nursing intervention of accessing, initiating and terminating dialysis treatments by double lumen permacaths and central line catheters to LPNs. According to AMGEN (2001) vascular access problems are costly; access complications take up staff time, disrupt schedules, and result in lost revenue while patients are in the hospital instead of the dialysis chair. The National Kidney Foundation called the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (K/DOQI) guidelines recommend that the AV fistulae is the preferred and first form of access for most patients and limiting the use of subclavian vein placement for*



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temporary catheters, because this practice causes high rates of central venous stenosis (AMGEN, 2001).

Definition of Terms for the Purpose of this Document

**End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)---**“That stage of renal impairment that appears irreversible and permanent, and requires a regular course of dialysis or kidney transplant to maintain life”(Medicare Regulations §405.2102).

**Agreement---**“A written document, executed between an ESRD facility and another facility in which the other facility agrees to assume responsibility for furnishing specified services for patients and for obtaining reimbursement for those services”(Medicare Regulations §405.2102).

**Arrangement---**“A written document executed between an ESRD facility and another facility in which the other facility agrees to furnish specified services to patients but the ESRD facility retains responsibility for those services and for obtaining reimbursement for them”(Medicare Regulations §405.2102).

**Hemodialysis---**“A process by which dissolved substances are removed from a patient’s body by diffusion from one fluid compartment to another across a semipermeable membrane”(Medicare Regulations §405.2102).

**Renal dialysis center---**“A hospital unit which is approved to furnish the full spectrum of diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services required for the care of ESRD dialysis patients (including inpatient dialysis furnished directly or under agreement). A hospital need not provide renal transplantation to qualify as a renal dialysis center” (Medicare Regulations §405.2102(2)).

**Renal dialysis facility---**“A unit which is approved to furnish dialysis service(s) directly to ESRD patients” (Medicare Regulations §405.2102(3)).

**Dialysis service - Inpatient dialysis---**“Dialysis which because of medical necessity is furnished to an ESRD patient on a temporary inpatient basis in a hospital”(Medicare Regulations §405.2102(2)(i)).

**Dialysis Technician---**“Perform routine procedures in the outpatient, inpatient, and acute settings under the direction and approval of the Medical Director or his/her designee” (NANT).

**Supervised, immediate supervision, readily available---**“The registered nurse is physically present in the patient’s room or on the floor with the patient, or in the dialysis unit”.

Concluding Statement

The Board believes that dialysis nursing is more than a technical skill or procedure; it requires the appropriate assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation skills of a registered nurse with special knowledge and competency in dialysis nursing. Since rapid shifts in volume or electrolytes during hemodialysis may result in hemodynamic compromise (hypovolemia, angina, or

dysrhythmias) the registered nurse must supervise the performance and documentation of the delegated task and adequacy of the hemodialysis standard to ensure effective and quality patient care.

Sources:

- ◆ AMGEN (2001). Core Curriculum for the Dialysis Technician, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. AMGEN.
- ◆ American Nephrology Nurses' Association. (1993). Standards of Clinical Practice for Nephrology Nursing. New Jersey: Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc.
- ◆ Dunn, S. (1993). How to care for the dialysis patient. AJN. (6):26-34.
- ◆ Etheredge, E. (1996). ESRD Network 13. Memorandum relative to Adequacy of Hemodialysis Standard.
- ◆ Federal Regulations. CFR42CUR 405.2164-2135.
- ◆ Louisiana State Board of Nursing. Previous related opinions.
- ◆ National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists Compendium of position papers, standards and scope of practice.
- ◆ Renal Physicians Association Working Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines.. (1993). Clinical Practice Guidelines on Adequacy of Hemodialysis. Clinical Practice Guideline, Number 1. Washington D.C.

## BOARD MEETINGS

Committee Meeting Dates

(Administrative, Credentialing, Education, Compliance, and Practice Committees)

\* All scheduled for first day when possible. If a second day is needed it will be noted on the posted agenda.

January 27 - 28, 2004

July 27 - 28, 2004

April 27 - 28, 2004

October 26 - 27, 2004

January 25 - 26, 2005

**Board Meeting Dates**

March 15, 16 & 17, 2004

September 13, 14, & 15, 2004

June 14, 15, & 16, 2004

December 6, 7, & 8, 2004

March 14, 15, & 16, 2005

**Advisory Council Meeting Dates**

March 15, 2004

September 13, 2004

**Settlement Committee Meeting Dates**

Monday, January 26, 2004

Monday, July 26, 2004

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Tuesday, August 24, 2004

Monday, April 26, 2004

Monday, October 25, 2004

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

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