

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Pere Marquette Bldg.—Office No. 907

150 Baronne Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Elizabeth B. Kirkham, R.N.

April 6, 1978

Ms. Barbara Blaha, R.N., M.S.
Director of Professional Services
Home Health Services of Louisiana, Inc.,
2001 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Dear Ms. Blaha:

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing met on March 30-31, 1978. The DDR Medicare Bureau Policy on the Pre-filling of Insulin Syringes for Blind Diabetic Patients was reviewed by the Board. The practice of allowing Home Health Aides to fill insulin syringes has legal implications which are of grave concern to the Board.

The Board is of the opinion that the nursing function of administration of medications is limited to licensed nursing personnel and filling the insulin syringe is an integral part of the administration of insulin to the patient. Home Health Aides are not licensed to administer medications; nor are they educationally prepared to do so.

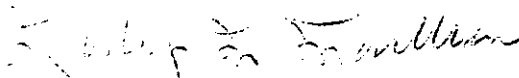
The definition of nursing in the Louisiana Nurse Practice Act includes the delegation of selected nursing functions approved by the Board. It is the opinion of the Board that the filling of insulin syringes is a function which is not to be delegated to Home Health Aides nor to any other unlicensed health worker.

Further, the purpose of the Nurse Practice Act is to safeguard life and health. The Board of Nursing views the pre-filling of insulin syringes by unlicensed personnel to be incongruent with this purpose which the Board is charged to promote.

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From the foregoing statements it is evident that the Board supports you in your efforts to obtain a revision of the DDR Medicare Bureau Policy #270. The Board's support is communicated to the DDR Medicare Bureau by means of a copy of this letter to Mr. Marion J. Seabrooks.

Sincerely,



Merlyn M. Maillian, R.N.,
Executive Director

MMM:mtl

CC: Mr. Marion J. Seabrooks