

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

George L. Bailey, M.D.
Renal Associates
Kidney Center and Medical Offices
2000 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Dear Dr. Bailey:

This is in response to your request that the Louisiana State Board of Nursing issue a statement regarding the legality of the operation of a renal hemodialysis unit as you described it. Your letter of March 13, 1978 was presented to the Board at its meeting on March 31, at which meeting the Board adopted Rules and Regulations on the Delegation of the Nursing Function of Administration of Intravenous Medications and Fluids. The Rules and Regulations will be published in the April, 1978 Issue of The Louisiana Register and they will become effective at the time of publication.

The Board again discussed the uniqueness of the situation in which hemodialysis occurs, the fact that patients in need of dialysis are in a constant life-threatening state requiring specific intervention and the fact that this intervention is accomplished under rigid protocol. In addition, the Board accepted your notation that the L.P.N.s and technicians do not inject medications directly into the patient's vein, but inject only saline and heparin into the blood in the dialysis machine.

It is the opinion of the State Board of Nursing that the operation of a renal hemodialysis unit such as you described personally and in your letter is congruent with the Intent of the Rules and Regulations on the Delegation of the Nursing Function of Administration of Intravenous Medications and Fluids, and consequently, with the Nurse Practice Act.

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

Sincerely,



Marilyn M. Mallian, R.N.,
Executive Director

MHM:mtl

CC: Julie Chiquet, R.N.
G. T. McKnight, M.D.
Mr. Leon Karaist

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