

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Mrs. Margie D. Gibbs, R.N.
President

907 Pere Marquette Building
150 Baronne Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-2382
504-568-5464

Miss Merlyn M. Maillan, R.N.
Executive Director

July 30, 1985

Glenda McKean, R.N.
Director of Nurses
Lallie Kemp Charity Hospital
Highway 51 South
P.O. Box 70
Independence, Louisiana 70443

Dear Ms. McKean:

This is to provide you with written confirmation of the opinion issued by the Board of Nursing regarding the utilization of L.P.N.s in special care units. On July 25, 1985, the Board deliberated on your request and formulated the following opinion.

The Nurse Practice Act, specifically L.R.S. 37:913 (3) (c), provides that "Selected nursing functions approved by the Board may be delegated to licensed or unlicensed personnel, ..." The Board of Nursing has adopted rules to regulate the delegation of nursing functions by the registered nurse. (R.N. 3.02 (1) (f) and R.N. 3.051)

R.N. 3.02 (1) (f) provides that the major part of nursing care may be delegated to L.P.N.s in stable situation only. In complex (unstable) situations, the R.N. may delegate selected tasks (not the major part of nursing care) to L.P.N.s. Certainly, special care units are not stable situations. Consequently, special care units shall be staffed with R.N.s on each shift.

Although the Board of Nursing does not specify staffing ratios, the number of R.N.s must be adequate to make it possible for the R.N.s to practice nursing in accord with the Legal Standards of Nursing Practice. The Board promulgates these Standards in accord with its statutory mandate, L.R.S. 37:918, D. Failure to practice according to the Legal Standards is a cause for disciplinary action against a registered nurse. A registered nurse who accepts responsibilities beyond that nurse's competency may also be subject to disciplinary action.

The Board members appreciated your presence at the meeting on July 25.

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.
Nursing Practice Consultant

cc: Ms. Donna Cates, Nursing Director
DHHR Office of Hospitals

John W. King, Assistant Secretary
DHHR Office of Hospital

ms 85.09