

November 23, 1987

Carmen Heineman, RN  
Director of Nursing  
Long Term Care Unit  
Natchitoches Parish Hospital  
P.O. Box 2009  
Natchitoches, LA 71457-2009

Dear Ms. Heineman:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding registered nurses delegating to licensed practical nurses the task of starting intravenous fluids in a Skilled Nursing Facility was presented to the Board at the meeting on November 19, 1987.

Copies of your letter of October 15, 1987 were distributed to the members of the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

.43

In reference to agenda item C, it is not within the realm of practice for a registered nurse to delegate to licensed practical nurses the task of starting intravenous fluids in a Skilled Nursing Facility when registered nurses are not physically present to provide supervision in accord with the requirements of LAC 46:XLVII.3703.A.12.a, and LAC 46:XLVII.4101-4111.

A copy of the above-referenced rules is enclosed for your reference.

The Board requested that I alert you to two additional provisions in your "Policy and Procedure" which are not in accord with existing laws and administrative rules:

1. On the second page, in the paragraph entitled "NOTE," there is a statement which reads: "The LPN will be allowed to administer hyperalimentation therapy." LAC 46:XLVII.4111 specifically prohibits the registered nurse from delegating the administration of hyperalimentation solutions.
2. On the second page, in the section entitled "I.V. Mixtures," subsection "a" reads: "The R.N. shall prepare the IV admixture until such time as the pharmacy takes over those preparations." Except in rare instances where the stat nature of the physician's order precludes referring the order to a pharmacist, adding medication to IV fluids is considered compounding. The Louisiana Pharmacy Act restricts the function of compounding to licensed pharmacists. Physicians may compound medications for their patients because they are listed as exceptions to the Pharmacy Act. However, they may not delegate this exception.

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

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant

Enclosures