

July 25, 1989

Denise Myhand Brown, RN  
Home Health Assistant  
Educator for Capitol Home Health  
Route 1 Box 175  
Napoleonville, LA 70390

Dear Ms. Brown:

This is to provide you with written confirmation of the action of the Board of Nursing regarding your request for an opinion of the Board on the delegation of selected nursing functions to home health aides.

The Nursing Practice Committee reviewed all of the information you sent and made recommendations to the Board at the meeting on July 20-21, 1989. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

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A. Contingent upon the registered nurse performing a nursing assessment, writing a plan of care, and meeting the requirements of the LAC 46:XLVII.3703.12, the following tasks may be delegated to home health aides:

1. Administration of over-the-counter disposable enemas, regular and retention.
2. When there is no pathology, vaginal douches using a solution of saline or vinegar.
3. Insertion of glycerine and dulcolax rectal suppositories for elimination.
4. Application of over-the-counter ointments in rendering simple wound care: neosporin, triple antibiotics, micatin, tinactin, zinc oxide, benadryl, betadine, bacitracin, caladryl, foille plus and carrington gel.
5. Rubbing aching joints with over-the-counter analgesic creams.

B. The following tasks may not be delegated to home health aides:

1. Betadine and phiso hex douches.
2. Application of terramycin ointment to wounds.
3. Cleansing wounds with peroxide, betadine, phiso hex and cara klenz.
4. Removal of fecal impactions.
5. Irrigation of a colostomy.

If I can further assist you with nursing practice matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant