

May 19, 1993

Maria Haslauer, RN, MSN, RN Consultant
Padua Pediatric Residential Program
200 Beta St.
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Dear Ms. Haslauer:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse delegating to a certified medication attendant (CMA) the performance of routine respiratory care functions such as postural drainage, percussion, suctioning of the pharynx and of a well-healed, mature tracheostomy was presented to the Board at its meeting on May 14, 1993.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the information you sent and reviewed related previous actions of the Board. At the May 14, 1993 meeting of the Board, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 4.8, a registered nurse may delegate postural drainage, percussion, suctioning of the pharynx and of a well-healed and mature tracheostomy to an unlicensed personnel in accordance with LAC 46:XLVII.3703.A.12 a and d (administrative rules on delegation to unlicensed persons), which state:

- a. Any situation where tasks are delegated should meet the following criteria:
 - i. The person has been adequately trained for the task.
 - ii. The person has demonstrated that the task has been learned.
 - iii. The person can perform the task safely in the given nursing situation.
 - iv. The patient's status is safe for the person to carry out the task.
 - v. Appropriate supervision is available during task implementation.
 - vi. The task is in an established policy of the nursing practice setting and the policy is written, recorded and available to all.
- d. Contingent upon the registered nurses' evaluation of each patient's condition, and also upon the registered nurses' evaluation of the competency of each unlicensed nursing personnel, registered nurses may delegate non-complex tasks to unlicensed nursing personnel.

Maria Haslauer

5-19-93

Page 2

- i. A non-complex task is one that can safely be performed according to exact directions, with no need to alter the standard procedure, and the results are predictable.
- ii. A complex task is one that requires judgment to safely alter the standard procedure in accordance with the needs of the patient; or requires the consideration of a number of factors in order to perform the procedure; or requires judgment to determine how to proceed from one step to the next.
- iii. The administration of medications is a complex task because it requires the consideration of a number of factors and the formulation of judgments according to those factors.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:sll

npop93.09