

August 30, 1993

Candace A. Kennedy, RNC, Medical Certification Specialist  
DHH-Region VIII Monroe, Division of Health Standards  
122 St. John Street, Room 412  
Monroe, LA 71201-7384

Dear M. Kennedy:

On July 27, 1993, the Nursing Practice Committee studied the Nurse Extern Job Description which you sent for review and an opinion of the Board. During the course of the review, the Committee not only found problems with the job description but also found that the Declaratory Statement on Nurse Extern Programs, adopted by the Board in 1987, contains language which may be confusing to those who are using this Statement when formulating job descriptions for nurse externs.

At the August 27, 1993 meeting of the Board, the Committee presented two recommendations to the Board, and both were adopted by the Board. The first is an opinion of the Board in response to your request as follows:

In reference to Agenda Item #4.5, the nurse extern declaratory statement does not change the legal implementation regarding nursing practice. The nurse extern is an unlicensed person; therefore, the rules on delegation to the unlicensed person apply. There are specific duties the nurse extern can perform; however, they must be non-complex. The qualifications of the nurse extern do not change the application of the rules on the delegation to unlicensed persons.

Specific tasks about which the Nursing Practice Committee had questions are: dressing wounds, carrying out physicians' orders, interpreting symptoms, and completing and implementing an individual nursing care plan. Any task which involves analysis and interpretation of data is a complex task.

The second recommendation is that the Board establish or assign a Committee to review and revise the 1987 Declaratory Statement on Nurse Extern Programs. The Board referred this review and revision to the Nursing Practice Committee. The Committee will at least begin to address this charge at their October meeting.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN  
Executive Director

BLM:sll

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