

November 21, 1993

Janice Kishner, RN
Asst. Vice President/Operations
East Jefferson General Hospital
4200 Houma Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70011

Dear Ms. Kishner:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse removing and replacing the outer cannula of a mature tracheostomy in an acute care setting was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 18, 1993.

The information you sent and all related previous opinions of the Board were studied by the Nursing Practice Committee. On November 18, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and, after due deliberation, the Board reaffirmed the following opinion, originally adopted November 30, 1984, regarding a registered nurse changing the outer cannula of a tracheostomy in a hospital situation.

In reference to Agenda Item 4.4, a registered nurse who has the appropriate knowledge and skills may change the tracheostomy tube in an emergency situation.

In non-emergency situations, a registered nurse should assess the patient and use nursing judgment, based on his/her competency, as to whether or not (s)he will carry out an order or perform a procedure.

Considering the possible complications of the procedure, the nurse must be adequately prepared to intervene in the event of any complication.

A copy of the above-referenced opinion is enclosed.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

Enclosure

BLM:sll

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