

Susan Perrot Jester, RN
Staff RN, Nursery Level 2
Lakeland Medical Center
New Orleans, LA 70128

Dear Ms. Jester:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse performing direct visualization and suctioning below the vocal cords of neonates with meconium stained amniotic fluid was presented to the Board at its meeting on May 20, 1994.

The information you sent was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee. On May 20, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

As a response to Agenda Item #4.3, the Board reaffirms the previous opinion which states, "the endotracheal intubation of a neonate in less than life-threatening situations is an advanced nursing function which falls within the role of the neonatal clinical nurse specialist and a neonatal primary nurse associate recognized by the Board of Nursing as advanced practitioners of nursing. It is not within the scope of practice of the registered nurse who is not an advanced practitioner of nursing."

In **foreseeable** life-threatening situations, the procedure should be performed by a physician or a neonatal advanced practitioner.

The Nursing Practice Committee and the entire Board appreciated your contributions to their discussion of the issue.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:sll

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