

May 17, 1995

Felecie L. Dugas, RNC
Unit Manager SNF, and Dialysis Service
Dauterive Hospital
P.O. Box 11210
New Iberia LA 70562-1210

Dear Ms. Dugas:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding the delegation of accessing the shunt in a dialysis patient and initiating the dialysis to a licensed practical nurse was presented to the Board at its May 12, 1995 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied your request and reviewed previous related opinions of the Board. Additionally, at its April 10, 1995 meeting, the Committee held a telephone conference with you to clarify your situation. The Committee then formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On May 12, 1995 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item #4.4, a registered nurse may not delegate the task of accessing the shunt in a dialysis patient, nor may an registered nurse delegate the task of initiating dialysis. Further, the registered nurse retains the accountability for the total nursing care of patients undergoing dialysis.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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