

December 13, 1995

Pattie McCue, R.N., MSN, CNA
Vice President, Chief Nursing Executive
Baton Rouge Medical Center
3600 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Dear Ms. McCue:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding delegation of ostomy care with regard to emptying of drainage to unlicensed assistive personnel was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 17, 1995.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue, and, at its October 16, 1995 meeting, the Committee formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On November 17, 1995 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 4.6, that the Board reconsider their previous opinion adopted at the August 24, 1995, meeting; the Board adopt the following the opinion that it is within the administrative rules on delegation when the registered nurse has performed the functions of assessment, evaluation and decision-making of the ostomy stoma and drainage, to delegate the action of emptying and changing only the drainage bag, not the whole appliance, to an unlicensed personnel who has the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to do so and is documented in the record.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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