

February 13, 1996

Neal E. Manuel, RN, CCRN
Patient Care Coordinator
Medical Center of Southwest Louisiana
2810 Ambassador Caffery Parkway
Lafayette, LA 70506

Dear Mr. Manuel:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse delegating to an LPN and/or patient care attendant the checking of vital signs, groin checks and pulse checks on patients who are post-cath lab procedures was presented to the Board at its February 1, 1996 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue at its January 8, 1996 and formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On February 1, 1996 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In response to Agenda Item 4.3:

That the registered nurse may delegate, in accordance with LAC 46:XLVII.3703.A.12., to an LPN the nursing tasks of checking vital signs, groin checks, and pulse checks on stable post-cath lab procedure patients when:

1. The registered nurse performs the initial and on-going patient assessment.
2. The competency of the LPN is verified and documentation of competency is contained in the personnel file of the individual.
3. The agency has a written policy and a detailed procedure identifying that it is acceptable practice in the facility.
4. Further that the above mentioned tasks of groin checks and pulse checks may not be delegated to an unlicensed personnel.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia K. Ladner, MN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Practice

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