

February 13, 1996

Donnie Booth, RN
Director, School of Nursing Hammond Campus
Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA 70402

Dear Dr. Booth:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse delegating to respiratory care practitioners certain nursing functions: IV starts; IV plumbing; IV dressing changes; assisting with routine patient care; intake/output; pressure line maintenance; setting up and placing patients on monitors; trouble shooting EKGs; assisting with various procedures, e.g. chest tubes central lines; hemodynamics; vital signs, phlebotomy; and equipment verification in the emergency room and MICU was presented to the Board at its February 1, 1996 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue, and at its January 8, 1996 meeting, the Committee 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 4.4:

That it is within the administrative rules on delegation for a registered nurse to delegate the following non-complex tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to:

1. Obtain intake and output measurements from catheters and such devices as determined by the registered nurse.
2. Perform EKGs (placing of leads and probes).
3. Obtain and record vital signs (T-P-R and BP).

Additionally, the initiation and maintenance of the following tasks do not meet the criteria for delegation to unlicensed assistive personnel:

1. Intravenous therapy.
2. Pressure lines, e.g., arterial lines, et al.
3. Setting up and placing patients on monitors.
4. Central lines.

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5. Hemodynamic monitoring.

6. Phlebotomy.

Further, nothing in this opinion prohibits any unlicensed assistive personnel, who holds a license in another discipline besides nursing, from practicing within their statutory scope. The definition of an “unlicensed assistive personnel” is a health care worker not licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

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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