

Louisiana State Board of Nursing  
3510 North Causeway Blvd., Suite 501  
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 13, 2001

TO: Girdie Moncla, RN  
Head Nurse  
Iberia Parish School Board  
Post Office Box 200  
New Iberia, LA 70562

COPY

FROM: Patricia Ladner, MN, RN *PL*  
Nursing Consultant for Practice

RE: Nursing Practice

This will serve to acknowledge receipt of your request regarding the scope of practice of registered nurses delegating care of a diabetic student to an LPN, specifically administering a bolus dose of insulin via an insulin pump. In accordance with the Law (RS 37:913(14)(j)) the registered nurse is responsible for "managing and supervising the practice of nursing" as defined in the Board's rules (LAC 46:XLVII.3703)

"Managing and Supervising the Practice of Nursing—those activities which serve to fulfill the accountability of the registered nurse for the total nursing care of the individual when tasks in the nursing care are delegated to other nursing personnel. These activities include: judging the priority of nursing needs of the individual; determining actions required to meet the needs; assigning personnel, including self, qualified to implement the prescribed nursing care or components of that care; providing information needed by personnel for the implementation of the assigned nursing care and ascertaining the assimilation of same information; directing the nursing care and evaluating the outcomes of that care; and determining and initiating changes in nursing care or in assignment of nursing personnel."

Although the rules provide for the RN to delegate the major part of nursing care to LPNs in stable conditions the following three conditions must be present at the same time: the nursing care is based on a relatively fixed and limited body of scientific knowledge, the care can be performed by following a defined nursing procedure with minimal alteration, and the response of the individual to the nursing care is predictable; change in the patient's clinical condition is predictable; and medical and nursing orders

*Monica  
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are not subject to continuous change or complex modification. The management of a child with diabetes controlled by a insulin pump is the responsibility of the RN. You will note that the RN must assess the patient care situation prior to delegation and that the RN's responsibility to supervise is included in the criteria for delegation. Enclosed is a copy of the Board's rules on delegation.

Each child in Louisiana is entitled to receive competent, safe nursing care in all practice settings. When a child is too young to administer their own bolus insulin via a pump, the school assumes the responsibility by providing the child with a safe, competent registered nurse. Although an insulin pump is simple to program and operate, the assessment of the child having to receive a bolus dose of insulin requires the skills of an RN as indicated above. By Law, the LPN must be supervised by another licensed professional such as a registered nurse or physician.

Contact me if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Enclosure

cc: file