

Louisiana State Board of Nursing
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 1999

TO: LaVonne S. Smith, RN
Consultant, Office of Special Educational Services
State of Louisiana Department of Education
P. O. Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

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

RE: School Nurses - Delegation of Nursing Tasks

This will serve to acknowledge receipt of the fax regarding the forms used by registered nurses in the East Baton Rouge School System relative to the information needed for children with diabetes. A general comment is that all forms should indicate if the word "nurse" is referring to an RN or LPN, since there are different scopes of nursing practice, it's best to clarify.

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing has not approved of "nurses" teaching ancillary personnel to give Glucagon injections. A note of history on this topic, a registered nurse from the Calcasieu school system inquired about unlicensed school employees, in emergency situations, administering Glucagon to an unconscious child with a blood glucose level below 60 mg/dl. My response was that this is an emergency situation (life-threatening) in which the Board's rules regarding nursing practice does not apply. From this discussion a protocol and teaching plan was developed by the school RN. I reviewed the protocol and advised that it be approved by the local pediatrician who provided free consultation to the school RNs; and, that the protocol would have to be approved by the student's parent(s) and physician prior to inclusion into the student's treatment plan.

The following is suggested wording for the letter to physicians:
Although the Louisiana State Board of Nursing's rules (LAC 46:XLVII.3703) prohibit an RN from delegating to unlicensed personnel the administration of medications, R.S. 17:436.1 provides for the administration of medications by trained school employees. R.S. 17:436.1 restricts unlicensed personnel from administering medications by injection; however, R.S. 37:929.3 (The Law Governing The Practice Of Nursing) provides for the rendering of nursing

assistance by any individual in the case of immediate emergency. Therefore, in the school setting where there is a written policy and a protocol that identifies a life threatening situation, the blood glucose level of hypoglycemia (below 60 mg/dl), the student's specific signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia (unresponsive and unable to swallow or unconscious), and directs the step-by-step actions of a trained unlicensed school employee, that trained unlicensed school employee may administer Glucagon in a life threatening situation (immediate emergency). This is based on the premise that all other criteria have been met: the person has been adequately trained; the person has demonstrated that the task has been learned; the person can perform the task in the given nursing situation; the student's parents and physician have approved the protocol; the task is an established policy of the school and, that the policy is written, recorded and available to all.

I realize that the above statement is wordy but there are so many critical elements to the delegation of this task; you may modify the above as you deem necessary. I also advise that an RN representing the school nurses petition the Louisiana State Board of Nursing for an advisory opinion on this nursing practice.

Contact me if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Enclosure
cc: file

2/8/99
P.2