

Louisiana State Board of Nursing
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 9, 1999

TO: Mary Landry, RN
Ascension Parish School Board
Post Office Box 189
Donaldsonville, LA 70737

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

RE: Nursing Practice

Pursuant to your request regarding a school nurse delegating the performance of sliding scale insulin to a trained, unlicensed school employee or an LPN for a kindergarten student who is an insulin dependent diabetic and receives insulin via a B. D. Insulin Pen, the Board of Nursing's rules on delegation would apply. Although the school employee has been trained and may demonstrate that the task has been learned, the requirement for appropriate supervision during the implementation of the task is critical in determining if the task is delegable. If the RN is only assigned to the school with the child, the RN may delegate the performance of capillary blood glucose testing to unlicensed school employees; however, if the RN is assigned to other schools and the school employee is not supervised, the nursing intervention may not be delegated since the administration of insulin is directly related to the results of the glucose testing and appropriate supervision is not available. The RN may delegate to an LPN the performance of sliding scale insulin in the school setting for an insulin dependent diabetic student who receives insulin provided that the physician prescribes the parameters. The physician's set parameters should be specific so that the LPN is not required to make a nursing judgement. There must be documentation of the LPN's knowledge, skills, and current abilities to perform such.

Regarding your second query relative to nurse practice opinion 95.07, this opinion allows an RN to delegate capillary blood glucose testing to unlicensed assistive personnel provided such person has written documentation of skills and competency every six (6) months and in accordance with the rules on delegation, which requires that adequate supervision is available during the task implementation.

Realizing that any school that receives federal funding is obliged to accommodate the special needs of children with diabetes, some arrangements will have to be made for this child. Contact me if you have any questions regarding this communication.

cc: file