

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

DECLARATORY STATEMENT ON TRANSMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF VERBAL ORDERS

Preamble

Institutional policy should spell out exactly those conditions under which transmission of verbal and telephone orders can be taken, which categories of licensed or certified health care practitioners may receive them for transmission, the proper procedure for checking the accuracy of a verbal order and the time allowed for the physician's countersignature to an order dictated by him and recorded by another. Additionally, there should be provision for appropriate documentation to include all parties involved in the transmission and acceptance of verbal orders.

Health care agencies are responsible for setting standards of care at or above the requirements of the Nurse Practice Act and the Board of Nursing. Policies of health care agencies may be more restrictive than the minimum legal requirements.

Transmission of Medical Orders

Based on the premise that the registered nurse is responsible for and accountable to the patient for the quality of nursing care received and recognizing the danger involved in accepting verbal orders of any kind, the Board of Nursing declares that a registered nurse may, based on their individual judgment of each situation, accept verbal orders initiated by a licensed physician, dentist or other authorized prescriber and verbal orders transmitted through someone other than a licensed physician, dentist or other authorized prescriber such as an APRN provided that in the RN's judgment the order came directly from a licensed physician, dentist or other authorized prescriber.

Acceptance of Verbal and Telephone Orders

The registered nurse may delegate to a licensed practical nurse the acceptance of verbal orders (including telephone orders) from a physician, dentist or other authorized prescriber in accord with the Board of Nursing's rules on delegation.

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