



Role of the Licensed Practical Nurse in Nasogastric Tube Insertion

POSITION STATEMENT

The Mississippi Board of Nursing is a consumer protection agency with the authority to regulate the practice of nursing provided for by Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Title 73, Chapter 15.

A position statement is a scope of practice determination made by the Board, as to whether performance of an action by a licensed nurse is within acceptable standards. Position statements are administrative and educational tools that can be used to assist providers, licensed nurses, and other interested parties in scope of practice determinations. Position statements of the Mississippi Board of Nursing are formulated in response to the Board's legally mandated charge to protect the public through safe nursing practice.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

It is within the scope of practice of the appropriately prepared Licensed Practical Nurse to insert nasogastric tubes provided the following conditions are met:

1. The licensed practical nurse must have documented evidence of initial and ongoing training and competence in performing nasogastric tube insertion;
2. There is a healthcare provider order for the procedure;
3. The licensed practical nurse practices according to generally accepted standards of practice;
4. The institution must have a written policy delineating safe limits and responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse in performing this procedure; and
5. Necessary resources must be readily available.

Although the determination of medical procedures and the patient's medical status is a medical decision, the Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse has the right and the obligation to question orders and decisions which are contrary to acceptable standards and to refuse to participate in procedures which may result in harm to the patient.

HISTORY

Original: 12/13/1989

Reviewed: 04/08/1997

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