

## **PRACTICE QUESTION: Scope of Practice**

Question:

*I work with a film production company planning to shoot a film in [Maryland] involving a Full Body Burn (lighting a person on fire), We are working through what the company needs to do to address fire and life safety. One of the things we are requiring of the production company is on-site medical care, mainly in case the actress gets burned but also to deal with any other medical issues prior to the arrival of EMS. The film company has hired an RN licensed in Maryland, but that individual is not an EMT. I have checked with our local EMT medical director to see if this is permitted and he advised me to contact the board of nursing.*

*Is an RN permitted to serve in this type of role, providing pre-arranged pre-hospital care? My concern is not necessarily the individual's abilities but will this person have the equipment and supplies necessary to care for someone, especially a burn patient prior to the arrive of an EMS transport unit? Based on the credentials provided, I would assume this individual is fairly new to the RN field and I also don't want to see this person jeopardize the license by doing something that the nurse may not be aware is disallowed.*

Response:

The Maryland Board of Nursing would not be able to answer "Yes" or "No" to your question, but rather refer you to the regulations that govern nursing practice.

These regulations can be found in COMAR 10.27.09. There are specialty regulations which govern specialty care transport ( COMAR 10.27.09.04.C) However, these regulations focus on the RN and transport from one facility to another. In COMAR 10.27.09.03. J with special note to (b) and (c):

J. Refusal.

(1) The RN has the right and the responsibility to refuse to perform, assign, or delegate nursing acts.

(2) Measurement Criteria.

(a) The RN has the right and responsibility to refuse to perform a nursing act which is beyond the parameters of the nurse's education, capabilities, and clinical competency.

(b) The RN shall obtain appropriate education, training, and supervision as required to perform nursing functions which are beyond the parameters of the nurse's education and clinical competence.

(c) The RN has the right to refuse to accept responsibility and accountability for supervising, monitoring, instructing, or evaluating an unlicensed person performing a nursing task that has not been delegated by that nurse.

I share your concerns that the equipment that may be needed to tend to a burn victim would not be available. Many questions come to mind that you yourself asked. What equipment does the RN have available? Who does the employee have a contract with for services? What documented experience and competency in the area of emergency care does the RN have?

While the board cannot speak to the employer's (film production company, in this case) legal and ethical responsibilities and potential liabilities, your question raises the serious issues for the professional nurse to consider when accepting employment for such an assignment.

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