

Note:

The conclusion reached in this letter opinion is still correct, however, Opinion No. 25-63 was withdrawn because of the provisions of House Bill No. 8, 82nd General Assembly respecting licensed practical nurses. See Section 537.037.
December 23, 1971

OPINION LETTER NO. 358
Answer by letter-Wood

Herbert R. Domke, M.D.
Director
Division of Health
221 West High Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101



Dear Dr. Domke:

You have requested my opinion on the following questions:

"Questions are frequently received in the Division of Health from physicians, hospital administrators and nursing home administrators regarding the administration of blood transfusions by a registered nurse in hospitals and nursing homes.

"I would like to raise two questions:

- "1. May a nurse administer a blood transfusion on the order of a physician in a hospital or nursing home?
- "2. May a physician initiate the transfusion to his patient in a hospital or nursing home and then leave the hospital or nursing home and delegate the responsibility to a registered or licensed practical nurse to give the necessary attention to the patient during the remainder of the transfusion?"

Herbert R. Domke, M.D.

In Opinion No. 25 dated January 18, 1963, to Daniel R. Reardon, Jr., copy enclosed, this office concluded that a registered professional nurse could administer certain fluids intravenously. We believe the conclusion therein stated is applicable to blood transfusions.

Yours very truly,

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General

Enclosure: Op. No. 25
1-18-63, Reardon