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September 11, 2015

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations
From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP Nursing Practice Coordinator
Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 0802: *The Use of a Vagal Nerve Stimulator Magnet*

At the September 9, 2015 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling (AR) 0802: *The Use of a Vagal Nerve Stimulator Magnet* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

The AR guides the practice of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses training of unlicensed persons when managing the care of an individual with a Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS) device who requires the use of a hand-held magnet to activate the generator transcutaneously if the individual experiences an aura or if an observer witnesses the individual having a seizure.

Revisions to Advisory Ruling 0802: *The Use of a Vagal Nerve Stimulator Magnet* revisions:

1. Include the Board-approved, standardized statement requiring licensee compliance with all nursing licensure and practice laws and regulations
2. Provides language changes to improve readability
3. Does not extend the AR beyond its original guidance for seizure control efforts
4. Includes a section related to the nurse in a management role that states:
 - a. The nurse in a management role must ensure the availability of sufficient resources to provide for VNS magnet use, including, but not limited to training sessions and organizational evidence-based policies and procedures consistent with current nursing standards that provide for:
 - b. protocols for assessing, validating and documenting competency acquisition and maintenance for VNS magnet use

- c. nursing care responsibilities, including, but not limited to patient assessment, monitoring, education principles, response to potential complications and/or emergency situations, and documentation criteria

Please take a moment to review the entire [Advisory Ruling 0802](#).