Louisiana State Board of Nursing
Guidelines for Interpreting Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses in Louisiana

**STEP ONE:** Describe the act to be performed.

**STEP TWO:** Review the scope of Registered Nurse (RN) practice in the Louisiana Nurse Practice Act (i.e. Louisiana Revised Statutes), and LSBN Rules and Regulations (i.e. Louisiana Administrative Code)

**STEP THREE:** Answer the questions below and follow the guidelines.

1. Do you hold a current/active Louisiana RN license?
   - **YES**
   - **NO**
     - OBTAIN LOUISIANA LICENSE
     - STOP
     - Go to #2

2. Is the act expressly permitted or prohibited by the Louisiana Nurse Practice Act or other Louisiana statute or rule?
   - **PERMITTED OR UNSURE**
     - Go to #3
   - **PROHIBITED BY RULE AND/OR STATUTE**
     - STOP
     - Go to #3

3. Is the act consistent with the nursing practice rules in the Louisiana Administrative Code, declaratory statements, and practice opinions of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN)?
   - **YES**
     - Go to #4
   - **NO**
     - STOP

Click here to see Louisiana Revised Statutes R.S. 37: 913 (13) & (14)
Click here to see Chapter 37 (Nursing Practice) and Chapter 39 (Legal Standards of Nursing Practice)
4. Do you personally possess the depth and breadth of knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the act safely and effectively as acquired in a pre-licensure program, post-basic program, continuing education program or structured self-study?

**YES**
- UNTIL ADDITIONAL
  KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS &
  ABILITIES GAINED

**NO**
- Go to #5

5. Is the performance of the act within the appropriately established facility/agency policies and procedures?

**YES**
- Go to #6

**NO**
- PERFORMANCE OF ACT
  MAY PLACE PATIENT,
  NURSE, AND/OR
  EMPLOYER AT RISK!

6. Are you prepared to accept accountability and liability for your action? Is the act prudent and defensible based on current standards of care?

**YES**
- PERFORM THE ACT

**NO**
- THE ACCOUNTABILITY
  IS NOT ASSUMED!
  NOTIFY APPROPRIATE
  PERSON(S)

**Resources:**

- **Louisiana Nurse Practice Act** (i.e. Louisiana Revised Statutes)
  - see R.S. §37:913 (13) and (14) for statutory definitions of RN practice

- **LSBN Rules and Regulations** (i.e. Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46:XLVII - Nurses)
  - see Chapter 37 for rules defining scope of RN practice
  - see Chapter 39 for rules regarding legal standards of nursing practice

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