

March 25, 2002

Becky Hutchinson, RN
Chief Compliance Officer
Cardiovascular Institute of the South
Post Office Box 4176
Houma, LA 70361

Dear Ms. Hutchinson:

Pursuant to your request regarding a registered nurse assisting and observing/monitoring a physiologic cardiac stress test with or without a nuclear component in a clinic or outpatient setting was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on January 22, 2002. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on March 20, 2002, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.1, that the Board maintains that it is not within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to independently perform a cardiac stress test. However, it is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to perform a physiologic cardiac stress test when the physician provides direct supervision as defined by the Medicare or Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)* and that the said registered nurse has the documented knowledge, skills, and abilities.

*Direct Supervision in the office setting means the physician must be present in the office suite and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure. It does not mean that the physician must be present in the room when the procedure is performed.
Reference: Medicare Provider News - June 2001.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:PAL

npop 02.01