

June 5, 2002

Carolyn Deprimo, RN
Nursing Education Coordinator
Opelousas General Hospital
Post Office Box 1389
Opelousas, LA 70571-1389

Dear Ms. Deprimo:

Pursuant to your request regarding a registered nurse draining a (Pleurx) pleural catheter in the home health and acute care setting was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on April 23, 2002. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on June 5, 2002, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.3, that it is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to drain a pleural catheter which is inserted into the intrapleural space to drain excess fluid from the pleural cavity in the acute care and home health settings provided the said RN has the documented knowledge, skills, and abilities and the institution has a written policy in place to provide for such.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:PAL

cc: Diane LeBlanc

npop 02.05