

# Louisiana State Board of Nursing

17373 Perkins Road

Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Telephone: (225) 755-7500 • Fax: (225) 755-7584

[www.lsbn.state.la.us](http://www.lsbn.state.la.us)

**March 19, 2009**

Ms. Cindi York, RN, CGRN  
Director, Clinical Product Line Development  
Gastroenterology Associates  
9103 Jefferson Highway  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Ms. York,

Pursuant to your request regarding the authorized scope of practice of registered nurses to independently monitor a patient during abdominal paracentesis; the Practice Committee considered your petition at the January 21, 2009 Practice Committee meeting. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on March 11, 2009, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following action:

That in reference to agenda item 6.1 and in accordance with R.S. 37:913 (14)(l) that it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to independently monitor a patient during abdominal paracentesis, change bottle/collection device until flow of ascites fluid stops, and dress site, provided a physician is present in the endoscopy center.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN  
Executive Director  
Louisiana State Board of Nursing

BLM/MG/bck

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