

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

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President

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March 11, 1982

Ms. Paula Thompson, R.N.
Policy and Procedure Coordinator
Lafayette General Hospital
P.O. Box 52009 O.C.S.
Lafayette, LA 70505

Dear Ms. Thompson:

The Board of Nursing held its scheduled meeting on March 4-5, 1982. In response to your request for a determination by the Board on the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse who subsequently becomes a Certified Physician's Assistant, the Board adopted the following opinion:

The role of a Registered Nurse and the role of a Certified Physician's Assistant are mutually exclusive. However, the same individual may function as a Registered Nurse and as a Certified Physician's Assistant at different times.

You are correct in your inquiry to the State Board of Medical Examiners for the scope of practice of a Certified Physician's Assistant. The Board of Nursing has jurisdiction over the practice of a Registered Nurse, but not that of a Certified Physician's Assistant. You are also correct in stating that a Registered Nurse may not inject epidural anesthesia, unless that person is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

The Board members appreciated the opportunity to discuss your question with Mrs. Celina Haynie.

If I can further assist you in nursing practice matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard

Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.
Nursing Practice Consultant