

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

NANCY LOWERY, R.N.
President

MISS MERLYN M. MAILLIAN, R.N.
Executive Director

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150 Baronne Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-2382
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August 3, 1982

Mrs. Judith R. Gimber
Administrative Assistant/Nursing
East Jefferson General Hospital
4200 Houma Blvd.
Metairie, La. 70011

Dear Mrs. Gimber:

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing held its scheduled meeting on July 22, and 23, 1982. Your request for an official interpretation by the Board on the application of R.N. 3.02,1, (c) (i) relative to the nursing staff in a special care nursery performing thoracentesis of the chest on an emergency basis for neonates with pneumothorax was presented to the Board for deliberation on Thursday, July 22, 1982, as planned. Your correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting.

The members of the Board appreciated the additional materials which you brought for distribution, and especially appreciated the opportunity for dialogue with Pat Pelican, Pat Cutrell, Dr. Marcia Sharp, and you. After due discussion and deliberation the Board adopted the following opinion:

Emergency Needle Thoracentesis on Neonates is within the realm of the practice of a registered nurse when said nurse has the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience, and when there is documentation of same knowledge, skills and experience, and with specific direction from the Neonatologist.

If we can further assist you with this matter, or with other nursing matters, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.
Nursing Practice Consultant

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