

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Nancy A. Lowery, R.N.
President

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

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March 28, 1983

James A. Herbert, R.N.
Director /Nursing Service
Opelousas General Hospital
P.O. Box 1208
Opelousas, LA 70570

Dear Mr. Herbert:

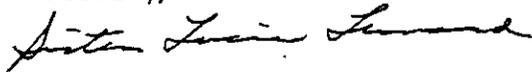
The Louisiana State Board of Nursing held its scheduled meeting on March 17 & 18, 1983. Your request for an opinion of the Board relative to registered nurses discontinuing chest tubes upon the order of a physician was presented to the Board at that meeting. Following is the official opinion of the Board on the matter:

The removal of chest tubes is not within the realm of the practice of the registered nurse.

In the discussion which preceeded the formulation of the opinion, the Board members noted that there is provision for cases of immediate emergency (life-threatening situations) which are included as exceptions to the nurse practice act. Should there ever be a case where the removal of a chest tube would be a life saving measure, a registered nurse could act under the aforementioned exception to the nurse practice act.

If I can assist you further with this matter, or with other nursing practice matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.
Nursing Practice Consultant

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