

# Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Mrs. Margie D. Gibbs, R.N.  
President

907 Pere Marquette Building  
150 Baronne Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-2382  
504-568-5464

Miss Merlyn M. Maillian, R.N.  
Executive Director

May 25, 1984

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

Dear Mr. Herbert:

On May 18, 1984, the Board of Nursing acted on your request for an official interpretation of the legal definition of nursing practice, specifically whether or not a registered nurse may irrigate a chest tube with medications and/or normal saline solution.

The Board determined that it is not within the legal scope of nursing practice for a registered nurse to irrigate intrathoracic chest tubes.

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

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.  
Nursing Practice Consultant

SLL:hj

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