

May 24, 1988

Peggy Mathews, RN
Director, Cardiac Cath Lab
St. Frances Cabrini Hospital
3330 Masonic Drive
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Ms. Mathews:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding the legal realm of nursing was scheduled for the Board's deliberation at its meeting on May 19, 1988. The specific questions posed to the Board was: Is it within the realm of the Registered Nurse's practice to set up and performing timing parameters of the intra-aortic balloon pump upon initial insertion?

After due deliberation, including a discussion of this matter with you and Dr. Robert Freeman, the Board adopted the following opinion:

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In relation to agenda item 3 a, it is within the legal realm of nursing to set up and perform timing parameters of the intra-aortic balloon pump upon initial insertion, if the registered nurse has the proper knowledge and skills documented by said nurse's employing agency.

The members of the Board appreciated the input which you and Dr. Freeman provided.

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

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN
Nursing Practice Consultant