

February 1, 1989

Clel L. Acosta, M.D.
Anesthesia Department
Thibodaux General Hospital
P.O. Box 1118
Thibodaux, LA 70301

Dear Dr. Acosta:

This is to inform you that your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit monitoring vital signs (BP, pulse, respiration, neurologic status, etc.) on patients who have had regional anesthetics administered by an anesthesiologist in preparation for surgery was presented to the Board during the afternoon session on Friday, January 27, 1989.

After due deliberation on your request, the Board adopted the following opinion:

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In reference to item 7c, it is not within the realm of practice for a registered nurse in a Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) to monitor vital signs on patients who have regional anesthesia administered by anesthesiologists in PACU in preparation for surgery, upholding the Board's previous decisions of January 28, 1987 and March 28, 1988.

The members of the Board appreciated the opportunity to discuss this matter with Doctor Jorge Bravo, Lolla Richard, RN, and the PACU staff nurses before arriving at their decision.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN
Nursing Practice Consultant

cc: Lolla Richard, RN, Head Nurse PACU