

September 25, 1989

Juanita Farris, RN
Clinical Coordinator, Intensive Care Unit
West Jefferson Medical Center
1101 Avenue D
Marrero, LA 70072

Dear Ms. Farris:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing to determine if it is within the legal realm of the practice of the registered nurse to aspirate/irrigate an intra-ventricular catheter was presented to the Board on September 22, 1989. The Nursing Practice Committee had studied the question and made recommendations to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

.12

In reference to Agenda Item 3, a, it is with-in the realm of practice of the registered nurse to aspirate/irrigate a ventricular catheter in a patient experiencing an emergency (life-threatening) situation while being monitored for increased intracranial pressure, provided said nurse has documented proof of competence in this procedure.

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

cc: Lydia Knott, RN, DON
Specialty/Services