

March 28, 1990

Linda Holyfield, RN, CCRN
Assistant Director, Nursing
St. Francis Medical Center
309 Jackson Street
Monroe, LA 71201-1901

RE: Nursing Practice Opinions

Dear Ms. Holyfield:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding specially prepared registered nurses removing chest tubes and pacemaker wires was presented to the Board at its meeting on March 23, 1990.

The Nursing Practice Committee had reviewed all of the information you sent and had studied the issue. The members of the Committee appreciated your availability for a conference at the meeting to further clarify your situation. At the March 23 meeting, the Committee presented its recommendations to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

.07a

In reference to agenda item 4f:

1. The removal of chest tubes, in a critical care setting, is within the legal realm of the practice of a registered nurse who has a minimum of two years of RN experience in critical care and who holds ACLS certification, provided said nurse has the necessary knowledge and skills, with documentation in this nurse's file, and provided further, that a physician is immediately available.

.07b

2. The removal of pacemaker wires is not within the legal realm of the practice of a registered nurse.

If you have questions about this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN
Nursing Practice Consultant