

August 12, 1992

Rod Heckman, RN, CNOR
Director of Surgical Services
Terrebonne General Medical Center
936 E. Main Street
Houma, LA 70361

Dear Mr. Heckman:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse inserting catheters and testing probes for urodynamic studies was presented to the Board at its meeting on August 7, 1992.

The Nursing Practice Committee appreciated the detailed information you sent to clarify the issue. The members of the Committee had reviewed all of the information you sent and deliberated at length on the different procedures for inserting catheters versus testing probes for urodynamic studies. At the August 7 meeting, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 4.1 it is within the scope of nursing practice for a registered nurse to insert catheters for urodynamic studies provided that the nurse has the necessary knowledge and skills documented in her/his file. It is not within the scope of professional nursing practice to insert a wire probe into the muscle tissue for the purpose of urodynamic studies. However, it is within the legal scope of practice for an advanced practitioner of nursing (as defined by the Board) who has specific preparations in urodynamic studies and has demonstrated proficiency in this area.

If you have questions about this matter, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:sll

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