

November 13, 1992

Jean A. Martin, RN  
Director Medical Intensive Care Unit  
Lafayette General Medical Center  
1214 Coolidge Avenue  
Lafayette, LA 70505

Dear Ms. Martin:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse removing valvuloplasty sheaths and CPS pump sheaths (large diameter sheaths) was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 6, 1992.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the information you sent and related previous actions of the Board. The Committee noted that the September 22, 1987 opinion of the Board did not specify any particular size of arterial catheters and sheaths. At the November 6, 1992 meeting of the Board, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board reaffirmed the following opinion:

In reference to Agenda Item 4.2, it is within the realm of practice for a registered nurse to remove arterial catheters and sheaths, provided that a physician (M.D.) is readily available (in the same building) and that said registered nurse has appropriate education, knowledge and skills to do so and that this preparation is documented in his/her file, and provided that the facility shall have written protocols and written approval of administration and of the medical staff.

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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