

November 13, 1992

Cathy Maher, RN
Director of Women's & Neonatal Services
Meadowcrest Hospital
2500 Belle Chase Highway
Gretna, LA

Dear Ms. Maher:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a Labor & Delivery registered nurse performing speculum examinations was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 6, 1992.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the information you sent and a related previous opinion of the Board. At the November 6, 1992 meeting of the Board, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 4.3, it is within the legal realm of practice for a registered nurse, with appropriate knowledge and skills, under established protocol, to perform a speculum exam for the purpose of nursing assessment and not medical diagnosis. However, it is not within the legal realm of practice for a registered nurse to perform a speculum exam on a gravid patient where there is evidence or suspicion of hemorrhage.

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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