

February 6, 1997

LeRita Jackson, RN  
LSU Medical Center - Shreveport  
P.O. Box 33932  
Shreveport, LA 71130-3932

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse delegating to an LPN or a Medical Specialist the task of removing sutures/staples following training and documented competency was presented to the Nursing Practice Committee at its January 6, 1997 meeting.

The information you submitted with your request was studied by the Board. At the February 5, 1997 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 4.4, it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to remove sutures/staples and to delegate to an LPN and/or Medical Specialist after the registered nurse has assessed the incision and when the LPN and/or Medical Specialist has the necessary knowledge, skills, and current clinical competence to perform this task and provided that this information is documented in the individual's file and is readily available to the registered nurse.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara Morvant, MN, RN  
Executive Director

npop97.04