

September 10, 1997

Francis J. Alessi, M.D.
Cardio Vascular & Thoracic Surgery
West Jefferson Medical center
4520 Wichers Drive
Marrero, LA 70072

Dear Dr. Alessi:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse cutting a suture which is causing a dialysis catheter to kink and making it useless for dialysis, if requested to do same by a physician not on the premises but in direct contact by phone was presented to the Nursing Practice Committee on July 28, 1997.

The information you sent and related information was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee. On September 5, 1997 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 3.3, it is not within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to cut a suture attached to a central catheter in a chronic dialysis setting.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:PAL
npop 97.14