

November 24, 1998

Carol Craig, MSN, FNP, RNC
Ochsner Medical Foundation
Emergency Department/Urgent Care
1516 Jefferson Highway
New Orleans, LA 70121

Dear Ms. Craig:

Pursuant to your request for an opinion of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing regarding a family nurse practitioner injecting local anesthetic agents under the skin or performing a digital block to prepare for sutures of minor lacerations in the emergency department was presented to the Board of Nursing.

The information you sent and related information was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on October 20, 1998 and the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on November 18, 1998, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.4, in accordance with RS 37:930 the registered nurse and advanced practice registered nurse may inject local anesthetic agents under the skin or apply topical anesthetic agents; however, the registered nurse and advanced practice registered nurse, other than a certified registered nurse anesthetists, may not perform a digital block.

The Board expressed appreciation for your presence at the Committee meeting to answer questions relative to the request. If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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