

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

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January 12, 2006

Lynda Powell, Vice President of Nursing
Lincoln General Hospital
P.O. Box 1368
Ruston, LA 71270

Dear Ms. Powell:

Pursuant to your request to clarify the position of the Board on OR nurses in assisting in the closure of the skin with a skin stapler or sutures while the surgeon is present, managing the wound and positioning the skin, the Practice Committee considered your petition and subsequently presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on December 7, 2005. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following action:

That the RN may assist the surgeon in the Operating Room/Surgical Suite in the closure of the skin, not to include closure beneath the skin, with a skin stapler or sutures while the surgeon is present.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director
Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Npop 05.08