

September 24, 1987

Barbara Gibson, RN  
Unit Director SICU  
Slidell Memorial Hospital  
1001 Gause Blvd.  
Slidell, LA 70458

Dear Ms. Gibson:

At its regular meeting on September 22, 1987, the Board of Nursing deliberated on the question of the registered nurse (pursuant to the order of a surgeon) disconnecting a mediastinal tube from the connecting tube to facilitate drainage when the patient is draining >50cc/hr. immediately post operative. The official opinion of the Board regarding this question is as follows:

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In reference to Agenda Item A, a registered nurse may not disconnect a mediastinal tube.

The members of the Board appreciated the opportunity to discuss this matter with you before formulating their decision.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant