

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

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March 29, 2005

Ann Burgin, APRN, BC
Ambulatory Director
LSU Earl K. Long Medical Center
5825 Airline Highway
Baton Rouge, LA 70805-2498

Pursuant to your request regarding the authorized scope of practice of registered nurses to remove metal sutures/wires that secure arch bars and those that are securing the mouth closed, the Practice Committee considered your petition at the January 25, 2005 Practice Committee meeting. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on March 16, 2005, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following action:

That in reference to agenda item 6.4 and in accordance with R.S. 37:913(14)(1) that it is within the scope of practice of a RN to remove metal sutures/wires that secure arch bars and those that are securing the mouth closed provided said nurse has the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities. The RN may delegate to the LPN the removal of said metal sutures/wires provided the RN is physically present in the clinic during the removal and there is documentation on file regarding the LPN's knowledge, skills, and abilities.

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 05.02