

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

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October 3, 2006

Cynthia C. Rhodes, RN
Director of Nurses
Surgery Center, Inc.
1101 S. College Road, Suite 100
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

Pursuant to your request as to whether it is within the scope of practice for the Registered Nurse to perform Class IV laser procedures under the direct supervision of a qualified physician, the Board rendered the following nurse practice opinion on September 13, 2006:

Approve that it is within the scope of practice for the RN to perform Class IV laser procedures under the direct supervision of a qualified physician with the following provisos:

- the procedures are non-ablative
- the MD/authorized prescriber possesses the specific knowledge, experience and expertise in laser therapy
- the MD/authorized prescriber assesses the patient prior to each procedure, gives specific orders and is physically present on the premises and immediately available
- the procedure be performed in a medical facility or medical office
- the RN has the knowledge, skills and ability to safely and competently perform the procedure
- the education and training of the RN to perform the procedure be documented, and
- the patient is informed that the RN will perform the procedure

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

Sincerely,

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

BLM/cdm

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