

December 6, 2001

Deborah Spell, RN  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Medical Center of Southwest Louisiana/HCA  
2171 Roberts Cove Road  
Crowley, LA 70526

Dear Ms. Spell:

Pursuant to your request regarding the scope of practice of registered nurses withdrawing cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) from a cerebrospinal fluid catheter, the information you submitted was studied by the Nursing Practice Committee on October 23, 2001. The Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Nursing on December 5, 2001, and, after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 6.1, that it is within the scope of practice for a register nurse to withdraw CSF from a lumbar placed CSF catheter provided that the said RN has documented knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the said procedure and that the organization has a written policy in place to provide for such.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN  
Executive Director

cc: file

BLM:PAL  
npop 01.13