

# Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Ellen T. Kyle, R.N.  
President

MISS MERLYN M. MAILLIAN, R.N.  
Executive Director

907 Pere Marquette Building  
150 Baronne Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112  
568-5464

December 16, 1981

Ms. Theresa A. Ausman, R.N.  
Supervisor of I.C.U.  
Meadowcrest Hospital  
P.O. Box 1328  
Gretna, LA 70053

Dear Ms. Ausman:

The Board of Nursing held its scheduled meeting on December 10-11, 1981. Your request for an interpretation of the legal definition of nursing practice in regards to the legality of a registered nurse performing arterial punctures was presented to the Board. Each Board member was provided with a copy of all of the materials which you sent to me.

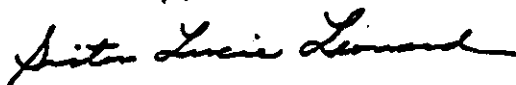
After due deliberation on all of the conditions which you specified (the performance of the procedure in the setting of the Intensive Care Unit by specifically trained registered nurses), the Board formulated the following opinion:

It is within the legal practice of the registered nurse to perform arterial punctures when there is individual documented evidence of appropriate knowledge, skills and experience.

The Board members asked that I commend you for your choice of materials which you sent for distribution. The package contained what was needed for the decision.

If you have further questions about this matter, or other nursing practice matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.  
Nursing Practice Consultant