

September 23, 1987

Helen Toups, RN, CCRN  
Head Nurse CCU  
Terrebonne General Medical Center  
P.O. Box 6037  
Houma, LA 70361

Dear Ms. Toups:

At its regular meeting on September 22, 1987, the Board of Nursing deliberated on the removal of arterial catheters and sheaths by registered nurses. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following official opinion.

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In reference to Agenda Item D, it is within the realm of practice for a registered nurse to remove arterial catheters and sheaths, provided that a physician (M.D.) is readily available (in the same building) and that said registered nurse has appropriate education, knowledge and skills to do so and that this preparation is documented in his/her file, and provided that the facility shall have written protocols and written approval of administration and of the medical staff.

The members of the Board appreciated the opportunity to review the data which was collected and to discuss this matter with you, Doctor Scales, Ms. Bolton and Ms. Longstreet prior to making a decision.

If I can further assist you with nursing practice matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant

cc: Margaret Longstreet, RN, Special Procedures  
Department, East Jefferson General Hospital  
Floyd Scales, MD, Radiology Department, East  
Jefferson General Hospital  
Edie Bolton, RN, Cardiovascular Lab, Our Lady of the  
Center

Lake Regional Medical