

THE EXAMINER
NURSING PRACTICE ISSUES

On November 22, 1991 the Louisiana State Board of Nursing deliberated on several recommendations made by the Nursing Practice Committee. Following is a brief summary of the context in which each action of the Board was taken and the text of the respective action.

Please note that opinions of the Board are the Board's interpretation of the legal scope of the practice of nursing or of the administrative rules which define the terms in the statutory definition. These opinions are valid only in the context in which they are rendered; that is, they do not have general applicability like the statute and the administrative rules themselves.

Norplant Contraceptive Implant: The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing requested an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding certified nurse-midwives inserting and removing the Norplant contraceptive implant. The Nursing Practice Committee had studied the procedures for inserting and removing the device and made a recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item #9, it is within the realm of the practice of a certified nurse-midwife to insert and remove the Norplant contraceptive implant as prescribed by a physician, provided that the certified nurse-midwife has documented evidence of appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities.

Insertion of Midline Intravenous Catheters: The Clinical Manager/Nurse Consultant for Menlo Care, Inc. requested an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding registered nurses inserting the Landmark Midline Catheter. The Nursing Practice Committee studied the detailed information on the instrument and on the procedure for the insertion of the catheter. The Committee made a recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion: (The Board deliberately omitted the trade name of the catheter so that other catheters which meet the same specifications could be used.)

In reference to agenda item # 10, it is within the realm of the practice of nursing for a registered nurse to insert a midline catheter provided there is documented evidence of the nurse's knowledge, skills and abilities to do so.

Facial Dermagraphics: Several nurses have inquired whether or not it is legal for registered nurses to perform facial dermagraphics. The Nursing Practice Committee was requested to study the issue and to make a recommendation for an opinion of the Board. The Committee studied all of the information provided by the Dermouflage Institute, including video tapes of the procedure. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item #11, there is nothing to prohibit a registered nurse who has documented evidence of the nurse's knowledge, skills and abilities from implanting pigment into the upper dermis provided that it is ordered and directed by a licensed physician.