

February 21, 1996

Jean Martin, RN, CNS
Lafayette General Medical Center
1214 Coolidge Avenue
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505

Dear Ms. Martin:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding if it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to pull lumbar drains, the type of credentialing necessary if registered nurses are allowed to pull lumbar drains; and is it permissible for a physician to credential one advanced practice registered nurse and that nurse in turn checks off the remainder of the staff was presented to the Board at its February 1, 1996 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the issue at its January 8, 1996 and formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On February 1, 1996 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In response to Agenda Item 4.7:

That it is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to remove a lumbar drain as directed by the attending physician, provided that said nurse has appropriate knowledge and skills acquired through a formal didactic and related clinical supervised practice, with documentation to that effect maintained in the said nurse's file.

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patricia K. Ladner, MN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Practice

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