Within the Scope of Practice of  X RN   _ LPN

ADVISORY OPINION
LUMBAR PUNCTURE

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform lumbar punctures if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
   A. Written policy and procedures.
   B. Satisfactory completion of an agency's approved instructional program.
   C. Satisfactory completion of a course of supervised clinical practice.
   D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised practice is on file with the employer.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION
   A. Anatomy and physiology of the spine, spinal cord and meninges.
   B. Indications and contraindications.
   C. Potential adverse reactions.
   D. Techniques of lumbar puncture.
   E. Nursing care responsibilities, including patient education.
   F. Appropriate management of comfort/pain/sedation.
   G. Associated pharmacology.
   H. Associated laboratory data.
   I. Documentation requirements.

III. RATIONALE
   This procedure should only be performed by physicians, advanced practice nurses, and RNS with additional education and training skills, and demonstrated competence.

IV. REFERENCES