



Nebraska Board of Nursing

ADVISORY OPINION

OPINION: LPN & Gyn Services
ADOPTED: January, 1986
REVISED: 8/96
REAFFIRMED: 5/2000

This Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, [Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 \(2\)](#). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing.

LPN & Gynecological Services

It is the opinion of the Board of Nursing that it is appropriate practice for LPNs practicing in the area of Women's Health to take a gynecological health history, obtain pap smears, and perform screening pelvic examinations under the direction of a registered nurse or licensed practitioner. It is expected that the LPN recognize abnormal findings and seek additional direction as appropriate.

The decision to provide gynecological services by an LPN should be based upon self-assessment of competence, and following an assessment of the client and environment. A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides. Competence means the ability of the nurse to apply interpersonal, technical and decision-making skills at the level of knowledge consistent with the prevailing standard for the nursing activity being applied. Accountability also includes acknowledgment of personal limitations in knowledge and skills, and communicating the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.