

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**Health Regulation & Licensing Administration
Board of Nursing**

Written: May 1, 2013
Approved: September 4, 2013
Originating Committee: Practice Committee

Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion

Staple Removal:

QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the registered nurse (RN)/licensed practical nurse (LPN) to remove skin sutures and/or staples?

The Board of Nursing for the District of Columbia acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of responsibilities of the RN/LPN to remove skin sutures and/or staples as prescribed and in accordance with institutional policy and procedure.

The Board of Nursing recommends the employer verify competency in the performance of this skill.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.