September 24, 2007

Dear Hospital Chief Nurse Officer:

In early 2000 regulatory changes were made to the blood bank regulations permitting specially trained licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to administer blood. Recently the Department of Health and the State Education Department have collaborated to revise the requisite course outline and provide clarification on the role of the LPN in administering blood components. The Administration of Blood Components by LPNs and the Course Outline for Training Licensed Practical Nurses in the Administration of Blood Components are enclosed.

Hospitals must document the curriculum that is used in training LPNs and must document completion of training and determination of competency of individual participants. Specific curricula need not be submitted for review.

Questions on the scope of practice for licensed practical nurses or registered professional nurses may be directed to the Office of the New York State Board for Nursing by phone, (518) 474-3817 Ext. 120; e-mail, nursebd@mail.nysed.gov; or mail, The State Education Department, Office of Professions, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234. Questions related to blood transfusion requirements may be directed to the Blood and Tissue Resources Program by contacting Cynthia Garabedian, MT(ASCP) at (518) 485-5341 or btraxess@health.state.ny.us. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeanne V. Linden, MD, MPH
Director, Blood and Tissue Resources

Barbara Zittel, RN, PhD
Executive Secretary, Board for Nursing

Enclosures