

**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

Ear Lavage with an ear lavage machine:

QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the registered nurse (RN)/licensed practical nurse (LPN) to perform ear lavage with an ear lavage machine?

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 perform ear lavage using the following methods, irrigation and suction to remove ear wax.

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.